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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 64/6, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

The present report reproduces the replies of Governments and bodies of the United Nations system to the request of the Secretary-General for information on the matter.

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I. Introduction

In its resolution 64/6, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

Pursuant to that request, in a note verbale dated 6 April 2010, the Secretary-General invited Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system to provide him with any information they might wish to contribute to the preparation of his report. A further note verbale was sent on 1 June 2010.

The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations that had been received as at 9 July 2010. Replies received after that date will be reproduced in addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Algeria

[Original: French]
[14 May 2010]

Algeria again expresses its profound concern at the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo unilaterally imposed for nearly half a century by the United States of America against Cuba.

The annual adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution calling for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba, like that adopted at its sixty-fourth session (resolution 64/6), supported by 187 Member States, reflects the desire of the international community to put an end to this situation which has lasted far too long.

Algeria has always rejected the imposition of extraterritorial laws and rules and all forms of coercive economic measures, such as this economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which — needless to say — is contrary to the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States Members of the United Nations.

Algeria wishes to emphasize that, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and to international law, this embargo is continuing to cause considerable material, economic and financial harm, with negative repercussions on the quality of life and the well-being of the Cuban people.

The consequences of this embargo for the well-being of the Cuban population are exacerbated by the adverse effects of the current international situation, particularly marked by the global economic and financial crisis, climate change and the energy and food crises, with harmful effects that have seriously compromised Cuba's efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

Algeria expresses its full support for the positions adopted at the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in July 2009 in Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt) and at the Second South Summit (Group of 77 and China), held in June 2005 in Doha (Qatar), which rejected the imposition of extraterritorial laws and rules and all forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, and reiterated the need to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

Algeria therefore urges the United States to heed the growing number of appeals made by the international community asking it to end the 50-year embargo and fully comply with the principles of mutual respect and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States.

Angola

[Original: English]
[6 April 2010]

The Government of Angola once again reiterates its unconditional support to the matter addressed in resolution 64/6.

The Government of Angola appreciates the importance that the Secretary-General continues to accord to the issue and appeals to the international community to make efforts to steer Cuba and the United States towards a more constructive and fruitful dialogue in order to reach a definitive solution, which should be none other than the cessation of the United States-imposed financial and trade embargo.

Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]
[12 May 2010]

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda expresses its concern at the continued promulgation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, despite the overwhelming support by Member States of General Assembly resolution 64/6, previous resolutions against the embargo and other relevant international treaties.

Further, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 64/6, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the aforementioned resolution, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirms the freedom of trade and navigation.

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2010]

The Government of Argentina has fully implemented the provisions of General Assembly resolution 64/6 and previous Assembly resolutions concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Act No. 24,871, enacted on 5 September 1997, establishes the legislative framework governing the scope of application of foreign legislation within the national territory. Under the Act, foreign legislation which, directly or indirectly, is aimed at restricting or impeding the free flow of trade and the movement of capital, goods or persons to the detriment of a given country or group of countries shall neither be applicable nor have legal effects of any kind within the national territory.

Article 1 of that Act provides that foreign legislation which, through the imposition of an economic embargo or limits on investment in a given country, seeks to have extraterritorial legal effects in order to bring about a change of Government in a country or to affect its right to self-determination, shall also be absolutely inapplicable and devoid of legal effect.

Argentina's vote in favour of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/6 and previous versions of that resolution was a reflection of its traditional position in favour of eliminating this kind of unilateral measure, and of its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism.

Argentina joins the nearly unanimous rejection of such measures and reiterates its opposition thereto and its strong support for Cuba's call for an end to the embargo. It has recently expressed similar views, including support for statements adopted at various multilateral forums since the submission of the previous report, which are described below:

- "Communiqué of solidarity with Cuba against the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America, including the Helms-Burton Act" on 27 September 2009, at the second Africa-South America Summit, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. (It should be noted that, although the second Africa-South America Summit was held before the adoption on 28 October 2009 of resolution 64/6, it did take place after the submission of last year's report).
- "Declaration of the Rio Group on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" issued on 5 November 2009, by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action of the Rio Group, at their meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica.
- "Special communiqué on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba, including the application of the so-called Helms-Burton Act" issued by the nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, held in Estoril, Portugal, from 29 November to 1 December 2009.

- The following paragraph was included in the joint communiqué of the presidents of the States members of the Southern Common Market and associate members, issued at its thirty-eighth summit, held in Montevideo, on 8 December 2009:

  "19. The presidents expressed their satisfaction at the recent adoption at the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, by a historic majority, of the resolution rejecting the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against the sister republic of Cuba, since it violates the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law. They reiterated their call for the immediate lifting of the embargo and the revocation of legislation and measures contrary to international law that restrict or hinder free trade and navigation."

- "Declaration on the Need to End the United States Economic, Trade and Financial Embargo against Cuba" adopted on 23 February 2010 by the Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean countries, at the Unity Summit in Cancun, Mexico.

- The following paragraph was included in the declaration of the sixth Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean-European Union, held in Madrid on 18 May 2010:

  "We firmly reject all coercive measures of unilateral character with extraterritorial effect that are contrary to international law and the commonly accepted rules of free trade. We agree that this type of practice poses a serious threat to multilateralism. In this context, and with reference to United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/6, we reaffirm our well-known positions on the application of the extraterritorial provisions of the Helms-Burton Act."

Armenia

[Original: English]
[9 July 2010]

The Armenian legislation contains no laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Australia

[Original: English]
[3 June 2010]

The Government of Australia reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 64/6. Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Honourable Stephen Smith MP, advised Cuba's Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Bruno Rodriguez, during his visit to Cuba on 23 November 2009, that since 1996, the Government of Australia has consistently supported United Nations General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade embargo against Cuba.

Australia has no trade or economic legislation or measures which restrict or discourage trade or investment to or from Cuba.

Azerbaijan

[Original: English]
[7 June 2010]

The Republic of Azerbaijan firmly upholds norms and principles of international law in its foreign policy.

The Republic of Azerbaijan enjoys friendly diplomatic, economic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba. The Republic of Azerbaijan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against the Republic of Cuba that would prohibit economic, trade or financial relations between Azerbaijan and Cuba.

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Cuba was established on September 2, 2007 and the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Azerbaijan was opened on November 14, 2007. Six cooperation agreements currently exist between two the countries. In order to further develop bilateral relations, an Intergovernmental Commission between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Cuba was established and functions on a regular basis.

In 2009 foreign trade turnover between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Cuba amounted to 250.000 USD.

The Republic of Azerbaijan will continue to undertake appropriate measures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with the Republic of Cuba.

Bahamas

[Original: English]
[28 May 2010]

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas enjoys normal diplomatic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba.

The Bahamas has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between The Bahamas and the Republic of Cuba.

In this context, The Bahamas recalls and affirms the position of regional and inter-regional bodies, such as the Caribbean Community, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Bangladesh

[Original: English]
[11 June 2010]

The Government of Bangladesh has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the General Assembly resolution 64/6. Bangladesh has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution in the Assembly and voted in its favour.

Barbados

[Original: English]
[10 June 2010]

The Government of Barbados has no laws which in any way restrict freedom of trade and navigation with Cuba. Barbados has consistently voted in favour of the resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", since it was first introduced in the General Assembly during the 46th Session in 1991.

Belarus

[Original: Russian]
[20 May 2010]

Belarus consistently condemns the use of unilateral economic measures as a means of exerting political and economic pressure on developing countries, believing them to be contrary to the basic principles of international law and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments.

Belarus advocates the inalienable right of every State to decide on its own model of development. Any unilateral attempts by some States to change the internal political system of other States by using military, political, economic and other forms of pressure are inadmissible.

In its foreign policy, Belarus adheres strictly to the principles of international law. The legislation of Belarus does not contain laws, decisions or regulations, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Economic pressure inevitably exacerbates the suffering of peoples, causing considerable damage to the economy of countries and thus preventing the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. As a consequence of the use of economic measures of coercion, the social and economic development of the countries against which they are used is hampered, violating the rights of entire peoples to a decent existence and greatly contributing to the development of political instability and to the outbreak of conflicts.

We also believe that responsibility for the results of the use of unilateral economic measures of coercion must lie with the countries that use and support such measures.

Accordingly, Belarus demands an urgent ending of the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed against Cuba. The repeal of the United States sanctions could be one of the prerequisites for the further normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and Cuba.

Relations between Belarus and Cuba are characterized by a high degree of cooperation and growing interaction. The development of trade and economic cooperation is given top priority in our bilateral relations. Both countries are mutually interested in and see considerable potential for increasing the turnover of bilateral trade and implementing joint projects in various sectors of the economy. In 2008, there was a sharp increase in trade between Belarus and Cuba and Belarusian exports to Cuba more than doubled.

The Belarus-Cuba Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Relations meets each year.

Belarus-Cuba inter-parliamentary cooperation is also on the rise.

There has been a significant expansion of the treaty base of bilateral cooperation. Twenty-six interdepartmental and bilateral agreements have been signed and three more agreements are ready for signature.

Belarus confirms its intention to continue purposefully promoting the enhancement of comprehensive cooperation and the development of friendly ties with Cuba.

Belize

[Original: English]
[9 June 2010]

Belize reaffirms its absolute commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations including, in particular, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which also form fundamental principles of international law.

In strict observance of the Charter and international law, Belize has consistently supported the resolutions on the embargo against Cuba and met with full compliance thereof, refraining from and rejecting the extraterritorial applications of laws and measures. The ongoing attempt to isolate Cuba in disregard of this annually adopted resolution is a cause of concern. At the bilateral level, Belize continues to engage with Cuba in a constructive and mutually beneficial partnership which has yielded concrete benefits for all our peoples. Our policy of engagement is further enhanced through regional cooperation between the Caribbean Community and Cuba.

Benin

[Original: French]
[25 June 2010]

Pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/6, adopted on 28 October 2010, the Republic of Benin and the Republic of Cuba, which maintain excellent relations of cooperation and friendship, organized the eighth session of the Benin-Cuba Joint Commission.

That session allowed both parties to devise a programme of economic, scientific and technical cooperation for 2009-2010, with a view to giving their relationship a higher profile.

The Government of Benin considers that the commercial, financial and even scientific embargo imposed on Cuba greatly hampers the development of that country, and hopes that it will be lifted, in order to allow the people and Government of Cuba to enjoy their sovereignty, in accordance with the original principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of Benin should be grateful if the Secretariat would make the necessary arrangements to have these views included in the Secretary-General's report to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

[Original: Spanish]
[17 May 2010]

The Plurinational State of Bolivia reiterates its firm and categorical rejection of the application of unilateral laws or measures of economic, commercial or financial embargo against any State Member of the United Nations, as well as the use of unilateral coercive measures by any country against another. Bolivia therefore condemns in the strongest terms the prolonged embargo and economic war policies that the Government of the United States has imposed on Cuba for almost 50 years. They have had a direct impact on the Cuban people and especially on the most vulnerable sectors of society.

Accordingly, the Plurinational State of Bolivia has not enacted any laws or applied any measures that restrict trade with any country, including the fraternal Republic of Cuba, as they would be contrary to the purposes of General Assembly resolution 64/6. Bolivia and Cuba have in fact strengthened their relations of cooperation based on solidarity and are committed to extending their existing trade relations.

The United States embargo against Cuba of almost half a century is contrary to international law and the purposes, principles and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and of OAS, and the basic principles of international law. Not only does it seriously harm the Cuban people; it also has an adverse affect on the interests and rights of the American people and of other countries and peoples.

The embargo is a criminal policy which, according to very conservative estimates, has caused losses of over $230 billion since it was imposed almost 50 years ago, constituting an unlawful act from every viewpoint.

The embargo has a particularly adverse effect on the sovereignty of other nations owing to its extraterritorial nature. From the point of view of public international law, the extension by the Government of the United States of its territorial jurisdiction over legislative matters is contrary to the principle of sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal decisions of another State and is incompatible with the full exercise of the Cuban people's right to free determination and development.

Furthermore, members of the World Trade Organization are strongly opposed to foreign laws that directly or indirectly violate the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs of other States or infringe on their sovereignty. The arbitrary stance taken by the United States in not complying with its rights and obligations disrupts the balance and fairness of those rights and obligations. In addition, it undermines the trust that all members placed in the World Trade Organization agreements.

The fact that in the past 18 years Cuba has obtained significant international support against the policy imposed by the United States Government is a sign of the increasing sympathy which the struggle of the Cuban people is eliciting at the international level and convincing proof of the almost unanimous rejection by the international community of this unlawful and inhuman policy.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia joins in endorsing this battle that is being fought on the international front and expresses its support for Cuba and, consequently, its support for General Assembly resolution 64/6, which reflects the repudiation of this type of unilateral measure, as well as its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism. It also affirms its support for the principle of juridical equality of all nations as regards their sovereignty and confirms that this should take priority over any economic and political dispute.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia espouses the new type of economic cooperation and complementarity between countries, based on the principles of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America and the Peoples' Trade Agreement. Underscoring the spirit of union that underlies bilateral relations benefiting their people, and in order to increase international competitiveness and cooperation and promote trade between Bolivia and Cuba, the First Protocol Additional to Economic Complementarity Agreement No. 47 was signed on 4 February 2009, reaffirming closer ties between their Governments and peoples; it includes market access facilities and complete trade liberalization.

The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia emphasizes that, in spite of the adverse consequences of the embargo imposed by the United States of America, the Government of Cuba has cooperated in areas considered vital for national development. For example, its cooperation in human resources training meets the international standards of United Nations agencies, and Cuba is investing millions of dollars in the academic training of thousands of Bolivian students on full scholarships. Bolivia and Cuba maintain relations of cooperation and complementarity based on the principles of the Bolivarian Alliance and the Peoples' Trade Agreement.

With regard to cooperation in the area of education, we have received support for literacy and post-literacy programmes, which are part of a State policy to overcome a historical legacy of exclusion of poor sectors from the right to education and is being implemented with technical and economic support from the Republic of Cuba.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia was declared to be a country free of illiteracy in December 2008, when over 824,000 persons graduated under the programme entitled "Yo sí puedo" (Yes, I can), to which Cuba directly provided ongoing pedagogical advice. Now, in the second part of this post-literacy programme entitled "Yo sí puedo seguir" (I can continue), we are working with Cuba to provide over a five-year period instruction equivalent to the fifth grade of primary education and the goal is to reach about 1 million beneficiaries.

Cooperation in the health sector is another central pillar of Cuba's cooperation efforts, supporting the training of human resources by means of fellowships and medical assistance from the Cuban medical brigade, which covers the entire Bolivian territory, working in the nine departments, in 96 of the 112 provinces and in 256 of the 327 municipalities, helping low-income groups in places where Bolivian institutional health mechanisms do not have a significant presence.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia acknowledges the effort made by Cuba to cooperate with the Bolivian people, in spite of the significant harm caused by the embargo to its economy. This cooperation is clearly illustrated by some figures: over 37 million free medical consultations; over 33,000 lives saved; and over 514,000 eye operations, also performed without charge in the framework of "Operación Milagro" ("Operation Miracle"), which have restored the sight or improved the vision of Bolivian men and women of varied backgrounds and social status. This important project providing ophthalmological care has benefited not only the Bolivian people but also the population of neighbouring countries. To date, since 2005, it has benefited over 425,400 Bolivians, over 37,400 Brazilians, over 29,200 Argentines, over 19,900 Peruvians and 312 Paraguayans. Under the same project, 1,639 people have so far been operated in Cuba.

Cooperation with human resources training is being provided under the programme of fellowships. There has been an unprecedented expansion in the number of scholarships awarded to low-income Bolivian students in rural areas, of peasant or indigenous origin, under new projects initiated recently to supplement the existing cooperation, so that Bolivian scholarship-holders in Cuba currently number 5,827 from various areas, most of them studying medicine and the remaining 10 per cent studying other subjects.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia is also the recipient of cooperation in other areas, such as sports. Scholarships have been awarded in sports medicine and six Cuban trainers have arrived to train Bolivian sportsmen. As regards energy saving, the energy efficiency programme launched in March 2008 will conclude in April 2009. Cuba has also provided many rural settlements in Bolivia with electricity by installing solar panels.

Since the election of United States President Barack Obama, many presidents, organizations, institutions and international figures have increased their calls for a definitive halt to these illegal policies which are harmful to the Cuban people. The Plurinational State of Bolivia has shown firmness and solidarity in joining this call,

in the hope that rationality will prevail, together with respect for a free choice of the economic and political system which best serves the people, without external pressures or irregular policies that constitute a crime against an entire people.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia, in the various international forums of which it is a member, has unconditionally opposed the embargo against Cuba. At the ninth Summit of Presidents of the member States of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, held in Caracas on 19 April 2010, it expressed the strongest condemnation of the United States embargo against Cuba and demanded an immediate and unilateral end to those policies. At the Rio Group meeting ("Unity Summit") held in Playa del Carmen, on 23 February 2010, it also expressed its support for Cuba in view of the fixed policy of economic aggression and requested President Obama to put an end to that policy.

Similarly, at the Summit Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt) from 11 to 16 July 2009, Bolivia firmly rejected the unilateral measures contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law that were being applied by some countries against others, including the United States embargo against Cuba.

The President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, His Excellency Mr. Juan Evo Morales Ayma, reiterating his strong solidarity with the Cuban people and Government in this righteous struggle at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on 2 and 3 June 2009, negotiated the effective revocation of the decision taken in 1962 to suspend Cuba from the inter-American system. This sends a positive signal with regard to the intention of the United States to change direction in its relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, especially as the highest authorities of the United States realized that their policy of isolating some countries in the region had had counterproductive results.

The United States Government has not yet given clear signals regarding the need to lift the embargo against Cuba definitively and unilaterally, despite the insistent international demand and the worldwide expectation regarding this possibility generated when the current administration took office.

For all of these reasons, the Plurinational State of Bolivia considers that it is now more important than ever to adopt a resolution expressing the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which would be an important contribution to consolidating and supporting the international call for the United States to move towards the definitive elimination of this unfair and illegal policy against the Cuban people.

With regard to paragraph 3, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has not approved any laws or measures that are contrary to the spirit of General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Botswana

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

The Republic of Botswana has never, and does not intend, to promulgate, apply and enforce any laws and measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 64/6. As reflected by its vote on the above-cited resolution, Botswana is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extra-territorial measures, and in this regard, supports the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Brazil

[Original: English]
[4 June 2010]

In accordance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 63/7 and 64/6, Brazil did not promulgate or apply any law, regulation or measure with extraterritorial effects which could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation. Brazil's legal system does not recognize the validity of the application of measures with extraterritorial effects.

In addition, companies located in Brazil are subject exclusively to Brazilian legislation. Measures by any country which violate the provisions of resolution 64/6 and attempt to compel citizens of a third country to obey foreign legislation, affect the interests of the international community as a whole and violate generally accepted principles of international law. They should be reviewed and changed in order to bring them into conformity with international law.

Furthermore, Governments not complying with resolution 64/6 should urgently take further steps to eliminate discriminatory trade practices and bring to an end unilaterally declared economic, commercial and financial embargoes.

Brazil strongly believes that discriminatory trade practices and extraterritorial application of domestic laws run counter to the need for promoting dialogue and ensuring the prevalence of the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The Brazilian government not only opposes the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, but has also maintained a growing economic relationship with Cuba. Bilateral trade has shown dynamism and trade flows have grown more than six times between 2003 and 2008. In the first quarter of 2010, bilateral trade flow reached US$ 115 million (34% higher than the amount registered in the same period last year). Brazil is also providing funding for the construction of the port of Mariel, which will have significant consequences for Cuban foreign trade.

Close dialogue and sound economic relationship between Brazil and Cuba generate mutual benefits and present a positive impact on bilateral initiatives with other United Nations members. In March 2010, Brazil and Cuba signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a view to strengthening public health services

and epidemiological surveillance in Haiti, which will result in important stimulus to the improvement of health services for the Haitian people.

The maintenance of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba is in disaccord with the dynamic regional policy that has recently been marked by the return of Cuba to dialogue and cooperation fora of the Americas. In December 2008, Cuba participated in the first Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean and joined the Rio Group. In June 2009, resolution 2438 XXXIX of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States revoked the suspension of Cuba from such organization.

In that regard, Brazil welcomed overtures undertaken by the Government of the United States of America in 2009 and believes that more remains to be done in order to bring about real change for the Cuban people, who suffer the most with the embargo. Direct dialogue, with no preconditions, should be pursued.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[27 May 2010]

In accordance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to which it fully subscribes, which in particular enshrine the principle of freedom of international trade and navigation, Burkina Faso has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Burkina Faso expresses its deep concern over the suffering of the Cuban people and the repeated attempts to undermine the Republic of Cuba's right to development, and reiterates its call for the ending of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Burundi

[Original: French]
[3 June 2010]

Burundi has never enforced the embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

Cambodia

[Original: English]
[20 May 2010]

The firm position of the Kingdom of Cambodia has been repeatedly expressed during the past sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, in its support for the unconditional lifting of sanctions unduly imposed against the Republic of Cuba.

The continuation of such immoral embargo, indeed, causes enormous suffering and great economic losses to the innocent people of Cuba. This unjust sanction, therefore, should be unconditionally lifted and removed.

The Royal Government of Cambodia wishes to appeal to all the members of the United Nations and the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to implement the above-said United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Cape Verde

[Original: English]
[28 May 2010]

The Republic of Cape Verde, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the national Constitution and in conformity with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which promotes solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among countries and nations, has never promulgated or applied any law or measures of kind referred to in the preamble of the Resolution A/RES/64/6.

Central African Republic

[Original: French]
[6 July 2010]

The United Nations General Assembly has been considering this topic for more than a decade. Every year, States Members of the Organization that cherish peace and justice call for the lifting of this embargo, which primarily affects women, the elderly and children.

The Government of the Central African Republic therefore appeals to the United States Government to repeal in the near future all pieces of legislation imposing the embargo on Cuba, which would greatly enhance the wellbeing of the Cuban people. It reiterates once again its support for resolution 64/6.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[27 May 2010]

Our country has rejected the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba each time that it has been submitted for the consideration of the international community, since it believes that the embargo is unjustified and that it is ultimately causing the living conditions of the Cuban people to deteriorate.

Chile has consistently maintained that the foundations of international relations must include the principles of legal equality of States, non-interference and freedom of trade and navigation. Consequently, Chile has refrained from applying or promoting the promulgation of laws or regulations contrary to those principles.

China

[Original: English]
[13 May 2010]

Sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and other relevant norms governing international relations should be duly respected. Every country has the right to choose, according to its national circumstances, its own social system and mode of development, without interference by any other country.

Differences and problems among countries should be resolved through peaceful dialogue and negotiation on the basis of equality and mutual respect for sovereignty. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States on Cuba, which has lasted for too long, serves no other purpose than to keep high tensions between two neighbouring countries and inflict tremendous hardship and suffering on the people of Cuba, especially women and children. The embargo, which remains in effect, has seriously jeopardized the legitimate rights and interests of Cuba and other States as well as the freedom of trade and navigation and should, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, be put to an end.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[7 May 2010]

The Colombian Government, respecting the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, has neither enacted nor applied any unilateral laws or measures against Cuba or any other Member State, in keeping with its policy of respect for international law and commitment to the principles of political independence, self-determination of peoples and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

Consequently, it promotes the independent development of the internal policies of every nation and believes that any measure that undermines economic and commercial development and the well-being of the population should cease.

Colombia believes that Member States should make progress in building cooperative and friendly relations based on multilateralism and respect for the principle of sovereign equality and other provisions enshrined in Chapter I of the Charter of the United Nations.

Comoros

[Original: English]
[23 April 2010]

The Government of the Comoros reaffirms its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and thus has not promulgated or applied any laws or regulations with extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other states.

Congo

[Original: French]
[25 May 2010]

With regard to the provisions of the above-mentioned resolution, the Republic of the Congo maintains excellent relations with the Government of Cuba and has always voted in favour of resolutions recommending an end to that embargo, which it regards as a unilateral and discriminatory measure contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

In the light of the above, the Congo objects to the extraterritorial nature of that embargo and to recent measures and legislation such as the Helms-Burton and Torricelli acts, which only compound the suffering of the Cuban people.

Therefore, the Government of the Republic of the Congo once again supports the draft resolution on ending this unacceptable embargo and sincerely hopes for a normalization of relations between the United States of America and Cuba with a view to fostering peaceful coexistence between the Cuban and American peoples.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2010]

Costa Rica, which supports the freedom of international trade and, especially, the economic well-being of the Cuban people, has not promulgated or applied laws that might strengthen the economic embargo against Cuba and, therefore, has complied satisfactorily with General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Costa Rica reiterates its rejection of coercive unilateral measures against any State.

Pursuant to the principles of multilateralism, Costa Rica advocates for dialogue as the only means of resolving disputes between States and Governments.

Croatia

[Original: English]
[23 April 2010]

Croatia, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, fully implements resolution 64/6 and has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 64/6.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[9 July 2010]

Introduction

The historically conflictual relationship between the United States of America and Cuba, which dates back more than 200 years, has its origins in the desire of the various United States Administrations to control Cuba's destiny, and the continued determination of the Cuban people to defend their right to be a free, independent and sovereign nation.

This determination found its ultimate expression in the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959. Since then, successive United States Administrations have used, with slight variations, the same policy instruments aimed at destroying the Cuban Revolution. The economic, commercial and financial embargo, subversion, psychological warfare and propaganda have been the constant tools of a systematic policy to achieve that goal.

By its nature, the United States embargo against Cuba constitutes an act of genocide under paragraph (c) of article II of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948 Geneva Convention) and an act of economic war under the terms of the Declaration concerning the laws of naval war, adopted by the Naval Conference of London in 1909. The embargo remains distinctly extraterritorial in nature, since the unilateral sanctions against Cuba have a widespread impact outside United States territory on companies and individuals of third countries.

Not even the establishment of a new Democrat Administration in the United States of America, supposedly driven by a philosophy of change, has in fact led to any fundamental change in the embargo policy.

Cuba remains unable freely to export and import products and services to or from the United States of America; Cuban nationals and companies cannot use the United States dollar in their international transactions or hold United States dollar-denominated accounts with third-country banks; Cuba is also denied access to loans from banks in the United States of America, their subsidiaries in third countries and international institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The fact that the Torricelli Act and the Helms-Burton Act remain in force and are applied extraterritorially continues to prevent Cuba from trading with the subsidiaries of United States companies in third countries. Businesses wishing to invest in Cuba are threatened with and subjected to sanctions, while the provisions of those Acts also hamper, and increase the cost of, the maritime transportation of goods between Cuba and third countries, since any vessel that enters a Cuban port or carries goods on behalf of Cuba is prohibited from entering United States ports for six months following its departure from Cuba, and access is denied to vessels with Cuban crews even when they are sailing under the flag of a third country.

Furthermore, the current United States Administration, in violation of basic international standards, continues to use political subversion as a weapon in its

confrontation with Cuba. A total of US$ 40 million was approved for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to promote subversive programmes.

From the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/6 on 28 October 2009 until now, key aspects of the embargo against Cuba have been maintained and strengthened, manifested in stronger economic sanctions and persecution of Cuban business activity and financial transactions.

The accumulated direct economic damage caused to the Cuban people by the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo by December 2009, based on very conservative estimates, amounted to more than US$ 100,154,000,000 at current prices.

That total would rise to US$ 239,533,000,000 if calculated on the basis of retail price inflation in the United States, using the Consumer Price Index inflation calculator of the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov).

If the estimates were to take into account the fact that the value of the dollar — calculated in terms of the price of gold on the international financial market — fell by more than 30 times between 1961, when the price of gold was fixed at US$ 35 per troy ounce, and the end of 2009, when it exceeded US$ 1,000 per ounce, the total impact on the Cuban economy would be about US$ 751,363,000,000.[1]

Chapter 1
President Barack Obama's Administration: continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba

On 28 March 2009, the Vice-President of the United States, Joseph Biden, in the context of the so-called Progressive Governance Summit in Chile, stated to the press that his Government would not lift the embargo against Cuba. On 7 April 2009, the State Department spokesman Robert Wood said at a press conference that he thought the United States Administration had made it very clear that it did not believe it was the right time to lift the embargo.

On 19 April 2009, President Obama's advisor, David Axelrod, in a television interview with CBS News, when asked if there was any thought in the White House of lifting the embargo, answered: "... we're a long way from that".

On the same day, President Obama's economic advisor Lawrence Summers, in an interview with the NBC television network, said, with reference to the lifting of the embargo: "That's way down the road, and it's going to depend on what Cuba [...] does going forward. [...] Cuba's known what it needs to do for a very long time, and it is up to them in terms of their policies, their democratization, all of the steps that

[1] To obtain this figure, the series of figures showing the impact of the embargo each year since 1961 was used; those annual amounts were then converted into dollars. The prices of gold on the international market at the end of each year, taken from the statistical series published on the United States website USAGOLD (www.usagold.com), were used. To calculate the extent to which the dollar had fallen against gold, the price of gold at the end of 2009 was divided by the prices for each year, which showed that the dollar had depreciated 31.1 times between 1971 and 2009.

they can take [...]. This is an issue that's going to get decided on the basis of Cuba's behaviour."

It is clear, then, that the United States Administration has no intention of changing its policy towards Cuba, nor of complying with the repeated United Nations General Assembly resolutions calling upon the United States Government to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. On the contrary, the United States Administration continues to insist on unacceptable and interventionist conditions and requirements as a prerequisite for a change in its policy towards Cuba.

Although he enjoyed considerable political support in Congress, as well as from the press, the public and the business sector, which went beyond any previous consensus that had existed in United States society regarding the country's policy towards Cuba and would therefore have allowed him to act with a high degree of autonomy, President Obama's actions have fallen far short of the expectations created by his rhetoric concerning the calls made by various sectors of United States society and the international community, as well as his prerogatives to change significant aspects of policy, even without the involvement of Congress.

If the necessary political will had existed, President Obama would have had sufficient powers, by virtue of those prerogatives, to ease significantly the embargo against Cuba. For example, without the need for Congressional authorization, he could have issued a wide range of licences authorizing measures to:

- Significantly increase visits by United States citizens and resident aliens, by interpreting broadly the 12 categories of travel-related transactions permitted by law[2] (for example, expanding educational visits; issuing licences for participation in professional conferences and academic, scientific, student, cultural, sporting and religious exchanges; and authorizing humanitarian projects, among other measures)
- Remove the limits on the amounts that United States citizens and Cubans resident in the United States are allowed to spend on travel-related items, such as accommodation, food and local transport, when they visit Cuba (United States citizens, including Cuban Americans, following the amendment to the budget legislation for fiscal year 2009, are permitted to spend no more than the foreign per diem rate established for United States Government civilians travelling on official business in Cuba, which is currently US$ 179 per day)
- Remove the prohibition regarding the use of credit and debit cards, personal cheques and travellers' cheques, whether issued by banks in the United States or third countries
- Expand the list of United States airports authorized to serve charter flights to Cuba (at present only three — Miami, New York and Los Angeles — are permitted to do so)

[2] These categories are: official business of the United States or foreign Governments and certain intergovernmental organizations; visits to family; journalistic activity; professional research; educational activities; religious activities; public performances, athletic competitions and exhibitions; support for the Cuban people; humanitarian projects; activities of private foundations or research or educational institutes; exportation, importation or transmission of information or informational materials; and export of agricultural products.

- Allow ferry services between the United States of America and Cuba
- Authorize all United States travel agencies to organize trips to Cuba, or relax the requirements and procedures by means of which travel agencies can obtain the necessary licences to do so (at present, about 150 agencies are authorized under specific licences)
- Authorize travellers visiting Cuba to buy Cuban products and take them to the United States, for personal use or as gifts, and remove the restrictions on their value (to date, they are only permitted to import informational materials, including artworks)
- Remove the ban on participation by Cuban companies in the transport of United States visitors to and from Cuba, or Cuban visitors to or from the United States of America
- Allow certain banking relationships, such as the use of correspondent banks and the opening of accounts by Cuban companies with United States banks, in order to facilitate agricultural exports
- Lift the prohibition preventing vessels that transport agricultural products to Cuba from loading goods in Cuba even if the goods in question are for shipment to a third country
- Expand the category of products that can be exported to Cuba to include such items as insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, agricultural equipment, and even wooden furniture and clothing made from animal or plant material
- Allow broader forms of cooperation in the development, marketing and supply of medicines and biomedical products of Cuban origin
- Authorize the import of medicines and medical products of Cuban origin, and the corresponding payments to Cuban exporters
- Authorize the export of medicines and medical equipment that can be used in the production of Cuban biotechnology products
- Instruct the United States representatives in international financial institutions not to block the granting of loans or other financial facilities to Cuba
- Ease or lift the prohibition on Cuba's use of the dollar in international transactions
- Allow the foreign subsidiaries of United States companies to conduct certain transactions with Cuba, in such areas as financial services, insurance, other services and investments (the Torricelli Act prohibits merchandise trade, but not the aforementioned transactions)
- Lift the two prohibitions under the Torricelli Act with regard to vessels, namely the prohibition preventing third-party vessels that have transported goods to Cuba from entering United States ports for 180 days following their departure from Cuba; and the ban on vessels carrying goods or passengers to or from Cuba from entering a United States port (the Torricelli Act and its implementing regulations authorize the President to issue licences in that regard)

- Remove Cuba from the list of State sponsors of international terrorism. This list was first published in 1982, under the Reagan Administration, and still exists today. It entails the application of specific sanctions[3]

1.1 Principal measures taken by the United States Government to maintain the embargo

On 11 September 2009, President Obama, invoking the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917 — a historical anachronism that is considered to be one of the legislative underpinnings of the embargo policy — informed the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury that it was in the "national interest" to maintain the economic embargo against Cuba.

On 15 November 2009, the press agency, Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA), published an article stating that Mozilla Corporation, the Firefox web browser developer, had prevented users in Cuba and other countries subject to sanctions from taking part in a programming competition.

In December 2009, it was reported that the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Arturo Valenzuela, had sent a letter to Senator George LeMieux (Republican-Florida), stressing that the United States Department of State continued to apply the sanctions envisaged under Title IV of the Helms-Burton Act.

On 21 January 2010, the Federal Communications Commission issued a public notice, based on instructions received on 12 January 2010 from the Department of State, announcing that Cuba would remain on the Commission's Exclusion List and that the Commission would continue to work in close coordination with the Department of State to apply the communications policy to Cuba. Despite a modification of the process to accept applications for the provision of telecommunications services to Cuba, investments in Cuban infrastructure for telecommunications services will not be permitted.

On 28 January 2010, the website softlibre.barrapunto.com reported that SourceForge, a website for software development that controls and manages open source software projects, blocked access to countries subject to United States unilateral economic sanctions, including Cuba. The site said that that decision violates two of the principles of the Open Source Initiative, the organization dedicated to the promotion of open source software: no discrimination against persons or groups and no discrimination against fields of endeavour.

On 24 February 2010, President Obama, reaffirming the continuation of the embargo, renewed Proclamation 6867, entitled "Continuation of the National Emergency Relating to Cuba and of the Emergency Authority Relating to the Regulation of the Anchorage and Movement of Vessels", adopted in 1996, and Proclamation 7757 of 2004, which extended the scope of the national emergency with respect to Cuba to prevent the entry into Cuban territorial waters of United States recreational vessels, in order to tighten the economic embargo.

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[3] Among the sanctions applied to a State sponsor of terrorism, as designated by the United States, are prohibitions on unlicensed financial transactions, direct technical and financial assistance from the United States Government, the export of goods such as heavy industrial products, high-technology equipment and dual-use items, the transfer of munitions, and the issue of temporary visas to nationals of the country in question without special authorization by the Secretary of State.

On 8 March 2010, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury announced new regulations governing Internet services for Cuba.

A legislative provision was made for United States companies and their subsidiaries abroad to offer certain Internet services to individuals in Cuba, services which were previously not expressly permitted. Such services include instant messaging, chat and e-mail, social networking, sharing of photos and movies, web browsing and blogging.

Such provision did not ease the embargo against Cuba. The Office's document makes it clear that the following are not authorized:

- The direct or indirect exportation of Internet services to high-level officials of the Government of Cuba or of the Party.
- The direct or indirect exportation of Internet connectivity services or telecommunications transmission facilities (such as satellite links or dedicated lines).
- The direct or indirect exportation of web-hosting services that are for purposes other than personal communications or of domain name registration services (such as, inter alia, .net, .edu, .gov extensions).
- The use of Internet services for commercial purposes.

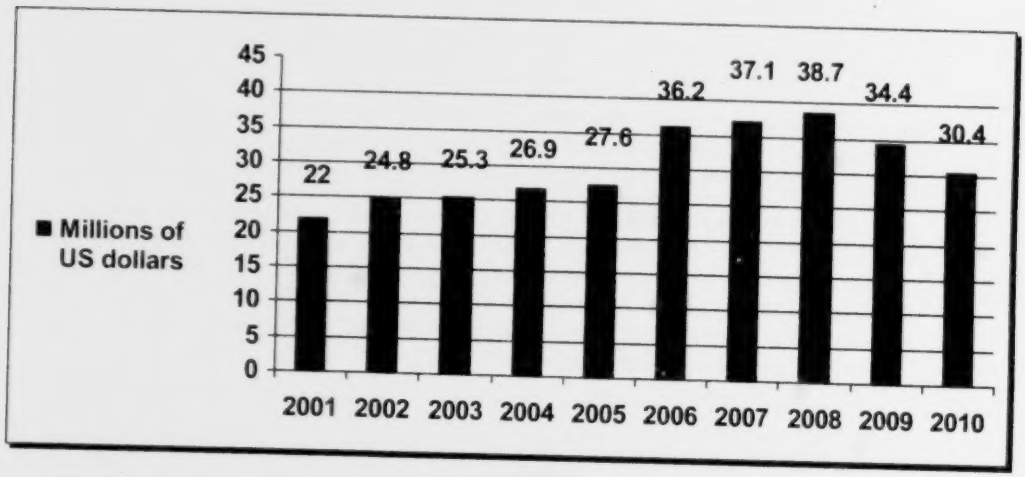
United States Government officials readily admitted that such measures pursued goals meant to be subversive.

From the above, it is once again clear that the United States Government has taken a political approach to its communications with Cuba. The embargo has neither been eased in this area either, nor is it the goal of the United States to enter into normal communications with Cuba. Here, as in the other areas, the overarching intention is to develop ways to further its subversive goals. This legislation also applies to other countries against which the United States has imposed economic sanctions. On the one hand, it aims to prevent Cuba from drawing benefits from such activities and, on the other, it tries to have a direct influence on people in pursuit of its subversive goal against the country.

Similarly, Cuba is faced with radio aggression equally with subversive goals from the territory of the United States. In violation of the norms of international law, there are more than 2,000 hours of weekly broadcasts to Cuba over 30 different frequencies carried by 19 radio and television stations. Such broadcasts, calling for violence and murder, urging professionals and experts to emigrate and flee Cuba, falsifying and distorting facts as to circumstances in Cuba, and calling for the overthrow of the legitimately established constitutional order, endorsed by the Cuban people, cause harmful interference with the delivery of our domestic services.

The graph below gives a breakdown of the funds allocated by different Administrations to the radio war against Cuba.

Funds allocated by the Government of the United States to radio and television broadcasts against Cuba



The hostile use of telecommunications, with the declared or hidden goal of subverting the legal and political order of States, is a violation of internationally recognized norms in this area and an improper and irresponsible use of the media.

A report issued in January 2009 by the Government Accountability Office of the United States openly acknowledged that the United States Government's campaign of radio and television broadcasts to Cuba was a violation of international norms and domestic legislation.

1.2 Extraterritorial application of the embargo

The extraterritorial reach of the embargo has continued to expand. Sanctions and the extraterritorial persecution of citizens, institutions and companies of third countries that have established or have simply proposed the establishment of economic, commercial, financial or scientific and technical relations with Cuba have been stiffened, with the United States thereby presuming to decide on matters that fall under the sovereignty of other States.

The ongoing process of international corporate mergers and mega-mergers and strategic global partnerships, in which the United States is highly active, continues to have a negative impact on Cuba. Such mergers and partnerships have increased the extraterritorial effects of the embargo by reducing Cuba's external economic opportunities.

The main pillars of the extraterritoriality policy are as follows:

- United States subsidiaries in third countries are banned from carrying out any kind of transaction with companies in Cuba.
- Third-country companies are banned from exporting to the United States goods made in Cuba or goods manufactured with any Cuban component.

- Third-country companies are banned from selling goods or services to Cuba if more than 10 per cent of their technology consists of United States components, even if their owners are third-country nationals.

- Vessels transporting goods from or to Cuba, regardless of the flag State, are banned from entering United States ports.

- Third-party banks are banned from opening United States dollar-denominated accounts for Cuban natural or legal persons or from conducting financial transactions in United States dollars with Cuban entities or individuals.

- Third-country business people who have investments in or conduct business with Cuba are penalized with the denial of United States visas (which may extend to family members), and they are even subject to legal action in United States courts if their transactions with Cuba involve property related to claims by United States citizens or Cuban born individuals who subsequently acquired United States citizenship.

The following examples of how third-country companies or companies located in third countries have been affected are irrefutable evidence of the extraterritorial reach of the embargo:

- On 15 May 2009, the Office of Foreign Assets Control rejected the 16 March 2009 request by Banco Popular Español for the release of funds blocked owing to the transfer by Cubana de Aviación of 107,770.95 euros from Madrid to Moscow in December 2008.

- On 25 September 2009, the branch of the Spanish venture capital Mexican bank, Bancomer, informed the Cuban venture capital Mexican company, Taino Tours, of the confiscation by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of a transfer of US$ 25,000 to Aeoralineas Damojh, S.A. de C.V., to pay for a charter flight. Under the embargo, the Department of the Treasury has the authority to inspect dollar-denominated transactions carried out through Mexican banks.

- The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, SCRL, (SWIFT)[4] informed the Central Bank of Cuba that it will not provide the new version of the SWIFT Alliance Access, Release 7.0, the only means of accessing the network beginning 31 March 2012, because it contains United States technologies and components subject to the restrictions of the economic embargo.

- The Mexican company, Lemery, was bought by the United States venture Israeli transnational, Teva, preventing Cuba from making further purchases of the cytostatic drug, Dactinomycin, the most effective drug for the treatment of sarcomas (malignant neoplasia that originates in connective tissue, such as bone, cartilage and blood vessels). The use of this product would increase patient survival rates in more than 70 per cent of cases.

- Cuba had a contract to take delivery, in November 2009, of an alcoholic beverage rotary bottling machine from the Brazilian company, Huhtamaki, with which it had previously done business. The machine, with a capacity of

[4] SWIFT is a network for the transmission of banking information based in Belgium, which consists of equipment and circuits located around the world, and controlled by the society, that provide users access to its services.

5,000 units per hour (60 ml bottles of rum) cost US$ 82,970.3. On the agreed delivery date, a letter arrived announcing that the Huhtamaki company had been bought by the United States company, Dixie Toga S.A., a subsidiary of the Beamis Company Inc. group, the contract was therefore not carried out because of the embargo on Cuba. The loss incurred as a result was US$ 480,000 because it was estimated that from the installation of the equipment in December 2009 until March 2010, 1.92 million units (60 ml bottles) would have been produced, at an estimated price of US$ 0.25 per unit.

- The British company Ametek cancelled the Procurement and Customer Service purchase order of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the sale to Cuba of a digital signal processor as part of the ARCAL RLA2013 biomonitoring project, intended for the Cuban Nuclear Agency's Technological Applications and Nuclear Development Centre. Ametek contended that it could not send the equipment to Cuba because it was under the embargo legislation. The equipment was intended for X-ray fluorescence analysis to replace the multichannel analyser (Canberra 30 series) was acquired through IAEA in 1983, which is failing owing to wear and tear, and was to have been used to measure heavy metal concentrations in the biomonitoring of air pollution in Havana.

- On 8 December 2009, the Cuban company, Construimport, invited the Japanese firm, Komatsu Brasil International Ltda, through Brazilian company Surimpex, to submit a bid for 15 crawler excavators, 20 backhoe loaders and 4 road graders, worth approximately US$ 5.5 million. Komatsu Ltd., which for many years was the leading construction equipment manufacturer on the Cuban market, responded that the company was a subsidiary of Komatsu Latin America, incorporated under United States legislation, and could therefore not sell to Cuba.

- Siemens de México declined to participate in the bidding for spare parts for the electric arc furnace of the Cuban company, Antillana de Acero, which had previously been supplied by the Mexican company, Fuch, later acquired by Siemens. Owing to the embargo regulations, the company refused to honour its obligations to Cuba and the relevant parts had to be purchased in Europe at a higher price and with a later delivery date.

- In 2009, bids were sought for technological equipment for a three-line continuous casting machine for the steel company, ACINOX, in Las Tunas province, in order to increase output from 250,000 tons of steel a year to 300,000 tons. When the SVAI company in Linz, Austria, one of the leading companies in the world in this field, was contacted, it responded in June 2009 that, because its parent company and owner, Siemens AG, was listed on the New York Stock Exchange, it had to comply with the embargo against Cuba.

- The Brazilian aeronautical consortium, Embraer, refused to supply spare parts for the Bandeirante EMB-110 civilian aircraft operated by the Cuban airline, Aerocaribbean, S.A. As a result of the embargo, the purchase was negotiated through intermediaries with a resulting increase of between 20 and 40 per cent in their sale price.

- The United States Department of State refused to grant an export licence to the United Kingdom company, Pascall Electronics Limited, subcontracted by the

Canadian company, Intelcan Technosystems Inc., to supply equipment needed for the Dopplerization of the MRL-5 meteorological radar in Camagüey. Pascall Electronics Limited was bought in 2005 by the United States defence and space consortium, Emrise Corporation.

- A bank from an Asian country announced that it would cancel the credit cards of officials of the Cuban embassy in that country, pursuant to the embargo. Cuba was informed that no bank in the country was willing to transfer payments to Cuba, which had been the case until that time.

- A European bank, which had been acting as a euro correspondent bank for another Asian bank, did not accept a payment instruction from a Cuban banking entity and announced that it was not working with Cuba because Cuba was on the list of State sponsors of terrorism, a list that, as everyone knows, was drawn up by the United States Department of State.

1.3 Continued persecution of and sanctions against individuals and companies from the United States and third countries

President Obama's Administration has maintained the embargo measures introduced under the Bush Plan, such as prosecuting commercial and financial operations conducted by Cuba abroad and levying administrative fines and criminal penalties on companies that violate the embargo regulations, among others.

One immediate effect of the continuing sanctions against United States companies, their subsidiaries and third-country companies is for the penalized companies to cancel their operations or cut trade ties with Cuba. The policy also discourages other companies and individuals that would otherwise have engaged in commercial and financial transactions with Cuba; in the specific case of banks, it either results in the cutting of ties with Cuba or renders transactions in the country unstable.

The sanctions against subsidiaries of United States companies abroad and third-country companies also show that the embargo against Cuba is still be applied extraterritorially.

In 2009, the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control levied fines totalling US$ 315,503 on seven companies for violating the embargo against Cuba. Individuals and companies were fined a total of US$ 340,678. During the first half of 2010, companies were fined a total of US$ 2,221,671. The Office of Foreign Assets Control also levied fines in the millions of dollars not only for trade with Cuba but also with other countries pursuant to the coercive unilateral measures.

The following are examples of the sanctions levied on the United States and third-country companies:

- On 24 August 2009, the Office of Foreign Assets Control fined the Australia-based Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited the sum of US$ 5,750,000 for its involvement in financial transactions related to Cuba and the Sudan.

- On 16 December 2009, the Office of Foreign Assets Control fined Credit Suisse US$ 536 million for violating the embargo and conducting financial transactions with several countries that are subject to United States sanctions, including Cuba. In the case of Cuba, it is alleged that Credit Suisse completed

32 electronic transactions totalling US$ 323,648 via banking institutions based in the United States of America.

- On 19 March 2010, the Office fined the Swedish subsidiary of Innospec, a Delaware-based chemical company, US$ 2.2 million for selling a gasoline additive to Cuba.

Persecution of and sanctions against United States individuals and companies:

- On 12 May 2009, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission sent a letter to the company Intel requesting information regarding its business with countries under unilateral sanctions, including Cuba. The request was based on an article published on 2 May by the Associated Press news agency stating that computers in Cuba use Celeron processors, which are produced by Intel.
- On 29 May 2009, the Office of Foreign Assets Control announced that the company, Liberty International Holdings Inc., had been fined US$ 35,211 for insuring a transaction connected with the Cuban Government. An individual was also fined US$ 1,175 for buying Cuban cigars over the Internet.
- On 1 July 2009, the New York City based Philips Electronics North America Corporation was fined US$ 128,750 because one of its employees travelled without a licence to Cuba in order to sell medical equipment produced by a foreign subsidiary.
- On 31 July 2009, an individual was fined US$ 15,000 for engaging in financial transactions with Cuba. In addition, MGE UPS Systems, now known as American Power Conversion, was fined US$ 10,341 for selling voltage regulators intended for use in Cuba, and First Incentive Travel was fined US$ 8,250 for providing travel services to United States citizens.
- On 30 March 2010, the Huffington Post blog reported that the FBI had questioned at least 10 members of the Venceremos Brigade for travelling to Cuba. According to statements by an attorney for the Brigade, Michael Tarif Warren, the actions could be part of a new directive from the Justice Department.
- On 1 April 2010, it was revealed that the Office of Foreign Assets Control denied the Sarasota Yacht Club in Florida a licence to participate in the Sarasota-Havana Regatta.
- On 23 April 2010, the Office of Foreign Assets Control announced that LD Telecommunications, Inc., a Florida-based company, had been fined US$ 21,671 for initiating funds transfers for the provision of telecommunications services to Cuba.

Chapter 2
Impact of the embargo on socially sensitive sectors

2.1 Impact on health and food

The public health and food sectors have been priority targets of the embargo policy.

Public health

Between May 2009 and April 2010, the public health sector incurred losses amounting to US$ 15.2 million.

The economic damage was caused primarily by the need to purchase medicines, reagents, spare parts for medical equipment, instruments and other supplies in distant markets, and often through intermediaries, resulting in increased costs.

This situation is compounded by the suffering and desperation of patients and their families when they are unable to access the appropriate medicines to treat a disease, and in many cases, in time to save someone's life. That pain can never be quantified.

The following are some of the many examples of the adverse effects of the embargo on the health sector during the period covered by the present report:

- The Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology is unable to use radioactive iodine plaques to treat children and adults suffering from retinoblastoma (a congenital tumour originating in the retina), as the plaques can only be purchased in the United States. This technology is primarily used to treat children, as it permits the treatment of retinal tumours while preserving vision in the affected eye, without scarring the face. In the absence of this technology, the only option is to remove the eye, and in some cases, both eyes, an invasive procedure that severely handicaps those affected for life.

- The Institute has an annual intake of approximately 1,600 patients who are adversely affected by the inability to purchase spare parts for the Philips computed tomography (CT) scanner. Of these, 250 face serious difficulties in planning their radiation therapy. The absence of this technology increases inaccuracy in treatment by some 3 to 5 per cent, adversely affecting radiation treatment, as the extent and shape of tumours cannot be clearly detected.

- Cuba does not have access to temozolomide (Temodar), a cytostatic drug specifically used to treat tumours in the central nervous system (gliomas and astrocytomas). This condition affects approximately 250 patients annually, of which approximately 30 are children. Access to this drug would significantly increase patients' survival rate and quality of life, as it has few side effects and is relatively easier to administer than other drugs.

- Cuba is denied the right to purchase non-ionic iodinated contrast medium, which improves the quality of imaging studies of patients with tumours. Using this drug would result in more accurate diagnoses and eliminate the risk of allergic reactions to other contrast media, which can be extremely serious.

- Cuban hospitals are prevented from purchasing the reagent silane, manufactured by the company Sigma-Aldrich, which is used to adhere histological samples to slides for special immunohistochemical and hybridization techniques. Without this reagent, malignant tumours and various infectious diseases cannot be identified, which precludes the use of modern techniques for the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of such diseases.

- The Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital in the city of Havana is unable to perform CT scans on more than 5,000 patients, particularly CT angiograms, which are

vital to analysing cerebrovascular diseases, owing to the failure of the Philips company to provide spare parts two CT scanners.

- Likewise, Cuba cannot acquire supplies and drugs required for organ and tissue transplants. Drugs such as cyclosporine and tacrolimus, which prevent rejection of transplanted organs and tissue, cannot be purchased by Cuba.

Children continue to be innocent victims of the United States embargo against Cuba.

- In 2007, the William Soler Paediatric Hospital was designated as a blacklisted hospital by the United States Department of the Treasury; hospitals under that category are required to meet certain requirements for the purchase of products, otherwise they are denied access to them. The inability to acquire various materials from the United States market that are appropriate for children, such as high-quality vesical and tracheal catheters, other catheters and stents, among others, has in no small way interfered with surgical procedures.

- Cuban children are denied access to the Amplatzer device, which is made in the United States from special materials that prevent its rejection by the body. The device is used for percutaneous closure of inter-atrial communication (it closes a defective opening between the aorta and the pulmonary arteries, a procedure known as an interventional cardiac catheterization), which eliminates the need for open-heart surgery, a procedure which is not only risky, but also requires intensive care and a three-week recovery period.

Four new cases have been added to the list of children waiting for an operation, which has been provided in previous years:

1. María Fernanda Vidal, age 5, Havana, clinical file 680347
2. Cyntia Soto Aponte, age 3, Havana, clinical file 668739
3. Mayuli Pérez Ulboa, age 8, Ciego de Avila, clinical file 691064
4. Lianet D. Alvarez, age 5, Camaguey, clinical file 04110975335

- Abbott, a United States company, is prohibited from selling sevoflurane to Cuba. Sevoflurane is an inhalant general anaesthetic with rapid induction, making it an ideal, first-line means of administering anaesthesia to children. It is also an excellent myocardial protection agent for episodes of ischemia in patients anaesthetized for revascularization. Even many of the generic, poorer quality drugs that have adverse effects on patients, such as levosimendan, cannot be purchased by Cuba, as they are manufactured by the same company.

Food

During the reporting period, the burdensome and onerous conditions imposed on Cuba for making basic food purchases from United States companies continued.

The United States Government continues to hinder exports to Cuba and has taken no action to facilitate them and comply with the standards, channels and normal practices of international trade.

In June 2009, the United States International Trade Commission published a report on sales of agricultural products to Cuba in which it was recognized that the

constraints on trade between the two countries included: difficult payment terms for Cuban importers; additional costs incurred by Alimport for storage or demurrage owing to bureaucratic obstacles; the complex and drawn-out licensing process for exporters who need to travel to Cuba; travel restrictions affecting Cuban negotiators; and penalties under United States law for foreign ships that have docked in Cuban ports and for the Cuban Government's purchases from certain countries for geopolitical considerations. The Commission estimates that a lifting of the United States financial and travel restrictions would lead to an increase in the country's sales of agricultural products to Cuba, which would vary between US$ 924 million and US$ 1,200,000,000, accounting for between 49 per cent and 64 per cent of Cuba's total purchases of agricultural products.

The following examples illustrate the situation:

- Alimport, the food import agency, incurred losses of about US$ 102,900,000 owing to the country risk premium, banking and finance charges and the costs associated with the means of payment. That money could have been used to purchase 337,000 tons of wheat, 451,000 tons of corn or 109,000 tons of chicken at average 2008 prices.
- According to information from the Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, in 2009 the United States imported over 3,082,000 tons of raw sugar, 1.37 million tons less than the quota. As Cuba did not have access to the New York preferential and futures market, it incurred losses of about $49 million during the reporting period, taking into account Cuba's current production and export volumes.
- As the Unión de Bebidas y Refrescos does not have access to the United States market, it is obliged to import barrels for ageing rum from European markets, which involves an additional cost of $284,700.
- The lack of access for Cuban rums to the United States market, in particular for the market leader, Havana Club, means there was a sales shortfall of at least 2.2 million cases of rum, which, at the average 2009 invoice price for Havana Club International, is an economic loss of about US$ 87,300,000.
- The embargo has had an adverse impact on rice production by causing a delay in the delivery of fertilizers and pesticides required for growing that cereal, which meant that 6,000 hectares were not sown during the 2009-2010 cold season, a shortfall of 24,700 tons of wet rice, amounting to 12,400 tons less for consumption. The cost to Cuba of importing this same quantity is US$ 7,500,000.
- Pig farming has suffered a loss of approximately US$ 23,400,000 owing to the relocation of trade, transportation, lack of external financing and the consequent increase in insurance costs owing to the risk of trading with Cuba.
- In addition to the damage and adverse effects caused to various activities in the agricultural and fishing sector owing to restrictions on access to the United States market as a receiving market for exports or as a supplier and the relocation to other more distant and less competitive markets, the lack of access to advanced technologies for this sector has had an unfavourable impact on its output and general efficiency, resulting in fewer products being available for local consumption.

2.2 Adverse effects on exchanges in the fields of education, science, culture and sports

Education, culture and sports have been and continue to be severely affected by the embargo.

In fact, the United States Government is not interested in promoting free contact between the two countries. It is the United States Government that prevents its citizens from visiting Cuba and it has not even re-established the levels of academic exchange that existed between Cuban and United States institutions prior to 2004.

Despite the fact that the United States Government has granted licences to some United States artistic groups and scientists to participate in events in Cuba and has approved a larger number of visas to Cuban artists and scholars as part of its new scheme for influence on Cuba, it has not altered the prohibition on academic, scientific and cultural exchanges that was decreed by the Bush administration in 2004. The licences are therefore entirely arbitrary and selective.

Education

Despite the efforts of the Cuban Government to guarantee quality education for all, the effects of the embargo can be seen in daily shortages that affect students and teachers in their learning, research and scientific work in general.

Some examples are highlighted below:

- During the reporting period, the total value of Cuban imports for this sector declined to US$ 18,200,000, 10 per cent of which was to cover freight charges. If Cuba had had access to the United States market, it would only have spent 3.7 per cent of the total on freight charges, and could then have purchased sufficient offset paper to print all of the textbooks needed for each subject, all the sets of tracing instruments needed for teaching mathematics in primary and special education schools, and the 150,000 sets of whiteboard markers required for teaching computer skills throughout the country for one academic year.

- Cuba has been unable to purchase the equipment needed to equip 60 therapeutic rooms for children with motor disabilities as it does not have access to the United States market and has to turn to more distant and costly markets. The cost of those rooms is around 14,000 euros on the European market; however, the cost would not exceed US$ 8,000 in the United States.

- In the reporting period, the higher education sector suffered losses totalling US$ 3,546,692, owing to the impact of the embargo on production and services, lack of access to United States technology, the use of alternative markets and the financial and monetary consequences.

- Internet service for teachers and students provided by Havana University is limited because access is initiated from a site in Cuba. There are restrictions, for example, on updates of software such as Java from Sun Microsystems.

- Applied Biosystems refused to sell Cuba DNA sequencing equipment and polymerase chain reaction machines, which are needed in molecular biology

laboratories. These devices can only be purchased through an intermediary, which increases the price and causes a loss of research time.

Culture

The embargo continues to prevent the United States and Cuban peoples from enjoying the best artistic, literary and cultural expressions of both nations.

In the reporting period, losses in the cultural sector amounted to US$ 10,575,000, which basically consisted of income not earned for exports of goods and services, the cost of seeking alternative markets, additional freight and insurance charges and financial and monetary losses.

- The Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry is unable to participate in the American Film Market and the National Association of Television Program Executives, despite the quality of Cuban products. The embargo also prevents the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry from collaborating with United States companies which offer commercial advertising in sectors such as air travel, tourism, art, culture and sport, so that the Institute has suffered losses of about US$ 720,000.

- Arts education is also severely affected by the constraints on purchasing the supplies and materials required for the study of various arts disciplines, including oil and acrylic paints and brushes for the plastic arts, musical instruments and other items.

- In 2002, a bilateral agreement was signed with the United States National Council for the Social Studies to provide support for a conservation project for the Ernest Hemingway home museum in the form of materials and supplies to digitalize the correspondence and other documents of the Hemingway collection. The Treasury Department did not authorize the transfer to Cuba of the funding required to implement this project.

Sports

Cuban sports are also severely affected by implementation of the embargo.

- For the third year in a row, Cuba has not been able to purchase equipment for liquid chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry, which is essential for anti-doping control. The United States Government prohibits United States companies and their third-country subsidiaries from supplying such equipment to Cuba.

- The United States company, UCS Inc., did not respond to requests for bids made by the Cuban company Consumimport for the purchase of miscellaneous items for baseball. Given this lack of response, the Cuban company was forced to use an intermediary and make the purchase in a third-country market, with a resulting cost increase of $3,000 for a single transaction.

Moreover, the United States Government has blocked the participation of many United States scientists, artists and scholars in meetings and events held on the island, by not giving them licences to travel to Cuba. Those prevented from travelling include the following:

- Thirty United States experts who were to participate in the twentieth International Congress on Orthopaedics and Traumatology, held from 21 to 26 September 2009.
- Representatives of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who were to participate in a workshop on marine conservation held in Colac Mar, Cuba, in 2009.
- The sponsors of the New York Philharmonic orchestra, when the concert planned for October 2009 in Cuba had to be cancelled.
- A large number of United States citizens who would have attended cultural events in Cuba such as the Jazz Plaza Festival, the International Festival of New Latin-American Cinema in December 2009 and the Havana Biennial.
- A number of United States scientists, who intended to participate in the third International Symposium on Mechanical Ventilation and Blood Gases, held in Villa Clara province from 22 to 24 April 2010.

Chapter 3
Impact of the embargo on the external sector of the Cuban economy

3.1 Impact on foreign trade

The losses incurred from April 2009 to March 2010 by foreign trade companies was US$ 155,500,000, which is almost US$ 87,000,000, or 36 per cent less than the figure of US$ 242,400,000 recorded for the same period in 2008-2009, owing to the decline in world trade and the commercial loans crunch caused by the global crisis. However, this does not mean that the embargo's impact on the external sector has remained undiminished; in fact the contrary is true.

The main effects of the embargo on foreign trade are as follows:

- The lack of access to the United States market means that intermediaries must be used, leading to higher prices for goods and higher freight and insurance charges owing to the use of distant markets such as Asia, and there is loss of income on exports of goods and services.
- The increase in financing costs owing to the so-called country risk associated with the United States embargo.
- The prohibition on using the dollar and the need to use other currencies, which increases costs owing to exchange rates and fluctuations thereof.
- Other effects owing to additional costs associated with transactions carried out through third-country banks, banking fees and means of payment.

From March 2009 through the first few months of 2010, directives from President Obama or measures based on legislative initiatives approved by the United States Congress on trade and related matters were announced and implemented.

However, the foregoing did not modify any legislative provision relating to the embargo against Cuba. They merely eased some restrictions and failed to provide funds to United States Government agencies for the implementation of the measures adopted under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 and extreme measures adopted by the Bush Administration.

In the case of the modifications to travel regulations applying to United States businessmen working in the agricultural sector, which required the granting of a general licence, their impact was lessened by the introduction of reporting requirements for businessmen and limits on daily spending in Cuba, which had previously not been strictly monitored.

Under the general licensing arrangement, United States businessmen have to submit two written reports to the Office of Foreign Assets Control, one 14 days before travelling and the second 14 days after returning from the journey. The first report identifies the producer or supplier and the activities to be carried out. The second report covers commercial activities, individuals with whom meetings were held and expenses incurred in Cuba.

In the context of the numerous and strict conditions that currently apply to the sale of agricultural and health products to Cuba, these measures to ease the embargo are very limited and clearly insufficient.

In 2009, no health-related products, such as medical equipment and supplies, were purchased in the United States, as their sale is still strictly governed by a series of in situ verification requirements and controls that make it virtually impossible to conduct any negotiations let alone make purchases.

Examples of the impact of the embargo on foreign trade include the following:

Consumimport, whose main imports are for the health, education and sports sectors, carried out a systematic study of subsidiaries of United States firms that produce high-quality electrical, sports and office items. It received no response to its requests for proposals. The firms included Cooper Wiring Devices (electrical items), Office Furniture USA (office items), and UCS Inc. (sports items), as previously mentioned. As a result, the purchases had to be made in third-country markets and sometimes intermediaries had to be used, at a cost of US$ 1,900,000, including the additional costs in the case of the sports items.

Cubacontrol, the company that imports and provides trade supervision services for products imported into or exported from Cuba, cannot engage in activities in local markets with links to the United States in countries where it has its own offices. Nor can it receive payments in dollars for services provided abroad to third countries or make transfers in that currency of funds collected by its agents.

Metalcuba asked a subsidiary of Asif Enterprises, a United States company to put in bids for U beams and galvanized pipes, but received no reply. It also requested bids from Ipesa, based in Mexico, which is partly owned by United States investors, and received no reply.

3.2 Impact on foreign investment

Even though foreign investment in Cuba is viewed as complementary to national efforts and is based on a highly selective approach targeting projects of national interest with significant economic and social impact, the embargo imposed by the Government of the United States has serious consequences for Cuba, including:

- Lack of access to the advanced technologies of United States companies;

- Lack of access to the United States market for imports of inputs and exports of joint ventures with foreign capital in Cuba;
- Lack of access to funding from United States banks for the development of projects with foreign direct investment in Cuba;
- Application of sanctions and pressure on foreign businesses, which hampers the establishment of joint ventures in Cuba and illustrates the extraterritorial nature of the embargo.

According to the 2009 World Investment Report, published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United States has maintained its position as the largest source and recipient country of foreign direct investment flows.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, foreign direct investment inflows increased in 2008 by 13 per cent to $144 billion, despite the international crisis. The growth was uneven among the subregions: it was up by 29 per cent in South America and down by 6 per cent in Central America and the Caribbean, a region that was affected directly by the slowdown in the United States economy.

To estimate the investment flows that Cuba might receive without the embargo, an analysis was carried out for the period 2000-2008, focusing first on the accumulated investment flows received by certain countries in Central America and the Caribbean in the various sectors of their economies, and those received from the United States. A compendium was thus developed of countries with economies comparable to that of Cuba and with similar geographical, climactic and sociocultural characteristics, regardless of their status as developing or medium development countries.

Costa Rica, Honduras and the Dominican Republic were chosen from the group of Central American and Caribbean countries that demonstrated similarities with Cuba, while Peru, Colombia and Uruguay were chosen from among the countries that, like Cuba, are considered medium development countries according to the classification system of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración.

The table below shows total foreign investment flows and foreign investment flows from the United States received by the aforementioned countries between 2000 and 2008.

Country	*Total accumulated foreign direct investment inflows in millions of dollars* (1)	*Accumulated capital flows from the United States in millions of dollars* (2)	*Percentage of total investment contributed by the United States* (2/1)
Costa Rica	6 902	3 948	57
Honduras	4 057	1 752	43
Dominican Republic	8 750	3 594	41
Colombia	25 839	6 465	25
Peru	6 107	947	16
Uruguay	2 087	785	38

Source: Regional panorama of foreign direct investment in Latin America and the Caribbean. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2008.

On the basis of these figures, it may be estimated that Cuba could have received foreign direct investment flows from the United States equivalent to those received by the countries selected.

Given that the average investment from the United States is 37 per cent of the total foreign direct investment in the six countries selected, Cuba could have received around US$ 2,251,000,000 during the period in question, had the embargo not existed.

If one considers only those countries which the Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración defines as medium development countries, Cuba would have received approximately 26 per cent of total foreign direct investment flows, or US$ 1,602,000,000.

If one considers only the Central American and Caribbean countries with characteristics similar to those of Cuba, Cuba would have received 47 per cent of the total flows received, that is, US$ 2,900,000,000, between 2000 and 2008.

In the oil sector, United States companies with advanced technology for deep-water oil exploration, such as Exxon Mobil (ranked No. 2 in the Fortune Global 500), Chevron (ranked No. 6), ConocoPhillips (ranked No. 10), Valero Energy Corporation (ranked No. 49) and Marathon Oil Corporation (ranked No. 108), cannot invest in Cuba, owing to restrictions under the Helms-Burton Act.

Tourism continues to be one of the main driving forces of the Cuban economy. It is necessary to continue developing the tourist industry by creating opportunities for foreign investors to invest in infrastructure for hotels and other accommodation infrastructure and in the construction of golf courses, among other things, projects which United States companies in the hotel business that have invested heavily in the Caribbean region cannot access.

The golf course market is a case in point. There are more than 81 million golfers worldwide who, according to data from the International Association of Golf Tour Operators, play 6.3 times per month on average. The United States is the country with the largest number of players — 29 million — and golf courses. Because of the embargo, no United States company is able to invest in that sector in Cuba.

As for hotel management, of the 14 international hotel chains with hotels in Cuba, none belongs to a United States hotel chain; Cuba is thus barred from such hotel chains as the Sheraton, Hilton, Marriot and Holiday Inn, which already do business in the Caribbean region and nearly all of which rank in the top 10 hotel chains in the world.

With regard to the agri-food industry, Cuba imports substantial quantities of food from the United States every year. Without the embargo restrictions, it would be possible to establish joint ventures in order to develop the production of many of these items in Cuba, as well as activities related to warehousing logistics, processing, post-harvest processing and distribution, which in turn would help to replace imports, revive the food industry and generate new sources of employment, among other benefits.

3.3 Impact on the financial and banking sector

During the reporting period, the Cuban banking and financial sector was subject to an ongoing policy of hostility and isolation by the Government of the United States, which resulted in hindered access to external funding, the introduction of obstacles to any financial transaction and the delaying and cancellation of commercial-financial negotiations, including in the final phases of execution.

Every year, the embargo has made it increasingly difficult to use correspondent banks, thus making transactions more complicated, in addition to the existing restrictions on the use of the dollar as a means of payment, which has forced the banking and financial system to explore new avenues or alternatives in order to be able to continue carrying out financial transactions with banks abroad.

The overall effects on Cuban banks and financial institutions during this period were:

- Additional costs incurred owing to the need to make payments in currencies other than those agreed (United States dollars), which in turn entails currency risk, as transactions became more expensive as a result of the double foreign exchange charges that are necessary in such cases;
- Inability to open accounts in Swiss francs in several major banks in Switzerland;
- Need to maintain minimum balances in Cuban accounts abroad given embargo-related risks;
- Inability to make payments to beneficiaries of letters of credit in their place of domicile, making it necessary to effect such payments through banks in other regions, further increasing costs;
- Negotiation of disadvantageous terms for purchase and sale transactions and financing operations, given the narrow spectrum of suppliers prepared to do business with Cuba;
- Pledging of 100 per cent collateral to confirm unfunded letters of credit, resulting in the immobilization of funds from the moment the letters of credit are issued;
- Inability to process individual remittances from cooperation workers, Latin American students and Cuban communities in Central and South America, owing to the strong influence of the United States on banks in the region;
- Pressure on the management of foreign loans that inflates the financial cost of transactions and forces Cuban banks, in structuring finance with foreign institutions, to establish appropriate mechanisms to offset restrictions arising from the embargo and from Cuba's credit rating, established by rating agencies that serve the interests of United States capital;
- Inability of Cuban banks to access specialized financial information websites, such as Reuters, which is considered one of the most comprehensive sources. Although alternatives have been found, this lack of access adversely affects the information services and market analysis offered by one of the banks in the Cuban system, and used by numerous clients on a regular basis.

3.4 Section 211 of the 1999 United States Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act and further patent- and trademark-related violations

On 6 April 2010, a district judge of Wilmington, Delaware, ruled in favour of the company Bacardi regarding the marketing of the Havana Club rum brand in the United States, whose registration renewal by its rightful owner, the Cuban/French company Havana Club International, had been denied by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in August 2006 by virtue of Section 211. The French company Pernod Ricard stated that it would appeal the decision to the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Section 211, adopted by the United States Congress in October 1998 as part of the 1988 Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, is designed to prevent the registration and renewal of certain internationally prestigious Cuban trademarks, such as Havana Club, with a view to appropriating them.

In 2010, it will be eight years since the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body, in February 2002, found that Section 211 violated national treatment and most-favoured-nation obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, and requested that the United States Government should bring its measures into conformity with its obligations under the TRIPS Agreement.

Since then, the successive United States administrations have done nothing to comply with their obligations under World Trade Organization agreements or with the rulings of the Appellate Body, and have merely repeated that "the United States administration is working with Congress to implement the recommendations and rulings of the Appellate Body".

Many key members of the World Trade Organization continue to express, on a monthly basis, within the Dispute Settlement Body, their deep concern over the protracted delays in compliance on the part of the United States Government and the direct implications for the multilateral systems of trade and intellectual property protection.

To allow Bacardi to sell rum under the Havana Club trademark, which is a well-know brand identified as being of Cuban origin, is to encourage the most unfair international trading practices.

Furthermore, in the context of the embargo and the policy of hostility, 2009 was likely to expose Cuba to a potential new impact as a result of action brought by several plaintiffs before United States courts to appropriate Cuban trademarks and patents as compensation.

It is not yet possible to estimate the impact on Cuban companies that own trademarks and patents in the United States, except that it will deter potential business.

In February 2010, the United States Patent and Trademark Office published the assignment of 44 trademarks and 58 patents belonging to Cuban entities to Nilo Jerez. One of these patents did not even appear in the assignment application submitted to the federal courts, nor had it been granted at the time of application.

In the course of a routine check on 12 April 2010, it was noted that the United States Patent and Trademark Office website still identifies Nilo Jerez as the assignee of the registrations of the Cuban institutions CIM, CNIC and DALMER.

Starting in June of this year, the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, the District Court for the District of Columbia and the District Court for the Southern District of Florida are expected to rule on the absurd requests for damages submitted against Cuba by family members of the United States mercenary, Robert Otis Fuller, and Cuban American Nilo Jerez, who obtained favourable rulings for several hundred million dollars, in court cases politically manipulated by anti-Cuban elements based primarily in Florida.

Unable to satisfy their demands with Cuban funds frozen in the United States, already plundered as a result of a long series of spurious court rulings against Cuba, the plaintiffs seek compensation through the illegal auctioning of Cuban trademarks and patents that were duly registered in the United States.

Ruling in favour of the plaintiffs would create a very negative precedent for future economic and commercial relations between the two countries. It would also constitute a serious violation of the international obligations of the United States of America with respect to intellectual property.

The United States has legally binding obligations under international treaties on intellectual property, including those arising from the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the General Inter-American Convention for Trade Mark and Commercial Protection, and the World Trade Organization TRIPS Agreement, which oblige the United States, as a State party, to afford protection to the trademarks and patents of the companies and institutions of all countries, including Cuba.

The United States Government has complete authority under its own law to intervene in such legal proceedings that affect its national interests.

The United States Government has justified on a number of occasions the position of anti-Cuban elements in order to satisfy their demands for damages at the expense of Cuban property and assets in the United States. One need only recall the dispossession of over US$ 170,000,000 of Cuban funds frozen in bank accounts in the United States to satisfy the families of members of terrorist organizations, aggressors and mercenaries working for the United States Government.

In contrast, to date, more than 5,000 United States trademarks and patents are registered in Cuba, where they benefit from the long-standing tradition of the Cuban Government of respecting reciprocity in terms of intellectual property. The registered trademarks and patents are owned by Mars Incorporated, Procter & Gamble, 3M, Merck & Co., Wyeth, Pfizer, E.R. Squibb & Sons, Bayer, Warner-Lambert, G.D. Searle and many other major United States corporations.

The attempt to appropriate Cuban trademarks and patents undermines international agreements on trademarks and patents and has serious international implications. The power of trademarks, as the sole intellectual property assets which can retain value indefinitely, is well-established.

In accordance with international law, the United States is responsible for ensuring that its laws, regulations and legal and administrative procedures are

consistent with its obligations under the World Trade Organization agreements and international treaties on trademarks and patents of which it is a State party.

Chapter 4
Effects of the embargo on other sectors of the Cuban economy

Cuban light industry has also been affected by the embargo, which has affected the sector's ability to meet the basic needs of the people. During the reporting period, losses amounted to US$ 12,891,000 as a result of importing products from markets further away and increases in freight and insurance costs, plus the additional cost of tying up resources in inventories.

The Suchel Union has been unable to purchase raw materials in the United States market for the production of items including soap, detergent and creams, which has resulted in additional expenditures of US$ 6,716,600. This sum could have been used to produce 7,348 tons of soap the equivalent of 58.7 million bars of soap for the people.

The Unión Poligráfica had to purchase its inputs from Asian markets, at an additional cost of US$ 1,999,000. That amount could have financed the production of 16.7 million good-quality school notebooks, 18 per cent of the notebooks needed for one school year.

The transport sector has not been spared from the negative effects of the embargo.

The main activity of Aries S.A. is dealing with cruise ships and passengers arriving in the country. Its operating capacity stands at around 1.2 million passengers and 1,092 cruise ships per year. According to the estimates of the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association, had there been no embargo on Cuba, our country could earn approximately US$ 125,300,442 per year.

Since Navegación Caribe was prevented from purchasing spare parts and other materials necessary for its vessels in the United States market, it had to turn to European markets, with the resulting increase in freight costs. Between April 2009 and March 2010, the impact in the form of higher freight costs was US$ 525,000.

The operations of Prácticos de Cuba are affected by the delays and expenses involved in repairing sea-going passenger vessels. A case in point is the vessel Río "Las Casas", which required new engines. These engines were made in the United States, so it was necessary to transport them from the United States to a third country on a different continent and then on to Cuba, with the resultant additional costs, leading to losses of US$ 16,788.

The information and communications technology sector has also been hard hit by the embargo. During the period under review, an estimated US$ 61,240,430 in potential income was lost.

In spite of the talks that were initiated in September 2009 between the Cuban and United States Postal Services, with a view to regulating the service, the embargo is still preventing the direct dispatch and transportation of mail, with the resulting adverse impact. It is estimated that an increase in the postal traffic between the two countries could benefit Cuba to the tune of at least US$ 1,500,000.

The Telecommunications Company of Cuba lost around US$ 52,868,000 in potential income during this period as a result of the impact on production and services, additional freight costs and the lack of access to United States technology, among other things. Equipment and spare parts patented by United States companies, which are essential to the development and maintenance of Cuban telecommunications companies, are acquired on the international market under strict control and supervision measures and are priced considerably higher.

The Cubaelectrónica company continues to feel the brunt of the embargo. Access continues to be systematically denied to many websites or their services, regardless of the content of the site. Cuba is denied access to free services offered on the Internet. One example is www.vivalinux.com.ar, based in Argentina, which provides open source solutions that all software developers need in the course of their work.

Cuba is prohibited from importing computers made by the world's major manufacturers, such as Intel, Hewlett Packard, IBM or Apple (Macintosh). In order to get any of those company's computers, the country has to pay up to 30 per cent more than their actual value.

The Cuban National Software Company Desoft S.A. has been seriously affected by the embargo. The Costa Rican company, Movil Multimedia, and the Spanish company, Oesía, have cut their business ties with Cuba because of their fear of fines or reprisals for doing business with Cuba; this has resulted in the stoppage of projects and the resulting financial impact.

The science and technology sector, crucial to the development of any country, continues to be affected.

The Empresa Especializada, Importadora, Exportadora y Distribuidora para la Ciencia y la Técnica (a state company responsible for the import, export and distribution of science and technology equipment), tried to obtain electronic components for the Instituto de Cibernética, Matemática y Física (the Institute of Cybernetics, Mathematics and Physics) and the Centro de Aplicaciones Tecnológicas y Desarrollo Nuclear (the Centre for Technological Applications and Nuclear Development) from Farnell, one of the world's leading distributors of electronic and electric products. That company, part of the Premier Farnell Group, the main distributor of electronic components in the United States with subsidiaries in more than 40 countries, withheld the electronic components of United States origin. This led to delays in the production of medical equipment for the Instituto de Matemática, Cibernética y Computación and the Centro de Aplicaciones Tecnológicas y Desarrollo Nuclear for the national health system and for export, and alternatives had to be sought.

The Camagüey Environmental Engineering Centre, which is responsible for the acquisition, application and dissemination of knowledge about the management of science, technology and the environment, by undertaking research projects, developing high value-added scientific and technical services and specialist products using nuclear and advanced technologies, is having serious difficulties publishing its scientific findings in authoritative journals edited in the United States and the United Kingdom.

The estimated impact of the embargo on the tourist industry in 2009 was US$ 1,108,900,000.

These losses can be broken down as follows: US$ 1,030,000,000 in lost income owing solely to the prohibition of travel by United States citizens to Cuba; US$ 11,500,000 from the United States yachts and sailing boats that are unable to visit Cuban marinas; US$ 27,400,000 from the increase in freight charges, higher prices and interest rates, larger inventories and static financial resources, mainly those of the Caracol chain of shops and the distribution company ITH; and US$ 40,000,000 from the restrictions in e-trade and other online services.

In 2009, the Cuban tourist industry lost potential income of US$ 1,030,000 because of the ban on travel by United States citizens to Cuba, based on the assumption that 15 per cent of United States travelling to the Caribbean as tourists would come to Cuba, if such trips were not prohibited.

Using the statistics of the Caribbean Tourism Organization at the end of March 2010, tourism flows from the United States to Cuba — if there were no travel prohibitions — would presumably also have been affected by the crisis like the other destinations in the region, by around 8 per cent. Therefore, it can be estimated that during 2009, around 1,585,000 United States tourists could have travelled to Cuba.

In addition, Cuban hotels can only use the Amadeus system, one of the four major international Global Distribution Systems, since three of them — Sabre, Galileo and Worldspan — are United States companies. Other intermediary providers of those services refrain from dealing with Cuban tourist organizations for fear of being fined and seeing their sales in the United States threatened.

From 1 May 2009 to 23 April 2010, the impact of the embargo on the Cuban civil aviation sector was estimated at US$ 265,830,210.

The United States' global monopoly of the production of commercial aircraft and components, parts and technology for aircraft, airports and aeroplane servicing equipment, as well as its involvement in production and its significant percentage of shares in other commercial aviation industry partnerships, for example in Europe, makes it prohibitive for Cuban airlines to acquire aeroplanes, equipment and parts, not only from the United States but also from other aeronautical industries, including Europe. For those reasons, Cuba also has to resort to leasing less efficient aircraft and on unusual and unfavourable items.

A number of United States airlines, including Miami Air, American Eagle, Gulfstream, Sky King and others, operate regular charter flights to and from Cuba, which fly out of Miami, Los Angeles and New York to several Cuban airports, and are given every facility by the Cuban State for their operations. However, the United States Government does not authorize Cuban airlines to fly into its territory.

In addition, although hundreds of flights by United States airlines pass through Cuban airspace each day on their way to Central and South America, owing to the limitations on flights from Canada flying through United States airspace en route to the central-eastern region of Cuba (Caya Coco, Ciego de Ávila, Camagüey, Holguín and Santiago de Cuba), Cuban aircraft have to use indirect routes, at greater than recommended speeds and at night, in order to comply with the closing times of Canadian airports, with the resulting increase in flight time of between 14 and 47 minutes, depending on the destination in Cuba, and increased fuel consumption, making those flights less efficient and less competitive.

Cuban air transportation service providers are also affected by the embargo because they are unable to offer passenger, cargo and crew handling services, on-board catering, fuel sales, air traffic control services and airport tax. Considering the estimates of the number of United States visitors to our country, during the reporting period, the income not earned because of the ban on that provision of such services amounted to US$ 205,484,638.

In civil aviation, as in all sectors of the economy, the embargo causes overspending in a number of ways.

A baggage handling belt system for the West Gate in Terminal 3 at José Martí International Airport in Havana had to be purchased in Europe, at a cost of US$ 3,703,178. The freight cost from Europe added US$ 91,854 and the commission paid to the intermediary was US$ 17,350, in addition to the cost of bringing in two European specialists for 14 days to assemble, install and start up the system.

Given the reference prices for similar or better quality equipment on the United States market, and the fact that the accommodation and transportation costs of the relevant specialists and the intermediary's 5 per cent commission, are considerably lower, it would have cost the country US$ 100,626 less had it been possible to purchase that system directly in the United States.

With these savings, a similar baggage carrousel could have been purchased for the East Gate of the Terminal, to replace the current equipment that is in a poor state of repair, with the resulting improvement in the quality of service provided to passengers arriving in our country through that Gate.

The application of the embargo in this sector violates the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed by 190 countries including the United States, in particular the principle that international air transport services should be established on the basis of equality of opportunity and operated soundly and economically, and article 44, which provides that the aims and objectives of the International Civil Aviation Organization include insuring that the rights of contracting States are fully respected and avoiding discrimination between them.

In the steelworking industry, the increase in spending or losses as a result of the embargo amount to US$ 36,343,500, which is 9.6 per cent of the US$ 377,618,000 spent on imports during the reporting period.

With this amount, the following items could have been purchased or produced:

- 11,162 diesel engines to replace the engines in or repair heavy vehicles, or
- 382 four-wheel drive trucks for transporting goods, or
- 1,953 buses to improve the transportation system, or
- 12,349 fire engines to be used in the public sector or in agricultural schemes, or
- 103 combine-harvesters for sugar cane in order to optimize the harvesting and farming of sugar cane, or
- 3,028 greenhouses, each measuring 800 square metres, to boost food production.

The Hotel Engineering Company, a distributor of raw materials, components, equipment, furnishings and medical equipment, used 40 containers to transport cargo imported from Europe and China during this period, at a cost of US$ 156,000. Had those purchases been made in the United States, it would have cost US$ 36,000 to transport that many containers leading to savings of US$ 120,000, which could have been used to purchase 250 hydraulic hospital beds or 20 universal 24-tube centrifuges for the Oncology Hospital's laboratories.

The Alcuba industrial group had to pay around US$ 1,274,700 more than it really should have to purchase raw materials in the United States market for the production of aluminium building materials for use in the construction of houses and public buildings. That amount could have purchased 700 additional tons of aluminium billets, which could have been used to make 6,375 square metres of sheet metal supplies, the amount required for 265 three-bedroom houses or 3 four-hundred-bed hospitals.

The steel-working industry group, Acinox, suffered losses of US$ 9,070,000 during this period, with which it could have produced more than 37,300 tons of corrugated bars, enough to build some 24,800 apartments in multifamily buildings, which would have benefited more than 99,200 Cuban citizens.

The steel-working factory, Antillana de Acero, could not obtain spare parts for the motors of the continuous-casting machine from the United States' Emerson Group. These had to be obtained from other providers and manufacturers. Purchasing the parts directly from the manufacturer would have cost 10,200 euros, but that price rises to 21,000 euros when using intermediaries.

The Alcuba industrial group made an offer to a subsidiary of Alcoa Brazil to acquire 5,228.47 tons of 7- and 8-inch aluminium billets to make extruded shapes. The company stated that: "Since Alcoa is a United States company, we are not permitted to trade with Cuba owing to the embargo".

During this period, the Cuban nickel industry, Cubaniquel, suffered losses of US$ 101,300,000.

As a result of the ban on exports to the United States of any product made entirely or partially with Cuban nickel, even if they are manufactured in third countries, Cuba lost US$ 75,700,000.

Losses incurred during this period were as follows:

- Discounts given as a result of the country risk at an estimated rate of US$ 478 per ton sold, leading to a loss of approximately US$ 18 million in potential income.
- Increased marketing costs as a result of high freight, handling, supervision and shipping costs, and sales taxes on nickel exports. During the reporting period, these cost approximately US$ 11,000,000. Exporting to nearby markets, would have saved US$ 4,300,000.
- Increasing the payment cycle from 30 days to 60 days as a result of the distant markets, led to outstanding delayed payments of US$ 53,400,000 during the year.

Oil and natural gas production has also incurred sizeable losses.

In 2009, 480,000 barrels of crude oil, worth US$ 20 million at average 2009 prices, were not produced because it was not possible to import explosive charges to perforate oil wells.

Perforating charges are used to link the well bore to the production layer, thereby facilitating the flow and collection of oil and increasing production levels.

In 2007, these charges were supplied by Innicor Subsurface Technologies, a Canadian manufacturer that was acquired by a United States company. In 2008, another Canadian company, LRI Perforating Systems Inc., submitted bids but it was bought in October 2009 by Dynamic Materials Corporation (DMC), of the United States, before the first contract was drawn up.

From October 2009 until the publication of this report, attempts to purchase these products through other channels in Argentina, Canada and Germany were unsuccessful.

Chapter 5
Opposition to the genocidal embargo against Cuba

5.1 Unprecedented opposition within the United States

Opposition to the embargo is also growing significantly within the United States itself.

It would be impossible to describe in only a few pages the countless statements and articles by key United States civilians, military officers, legislators, and media personalities, major non-governmental organizations and academic institutions that in the last year have acknowledged the failure of the embargo; supported bills to allow United States citizens to travel to Cuba and/or bring about the normalization of bilateral relations, or called for the lifting of the embargo.

The following provides a few examples of the most significant and representative calls for an end to the embargo.

- On 6 May 2009, former United States President, James Carter, told the Brazilian newspaper, *Folha de São Paulo*: "I would like to see the embargo end right now. There is no reason why the Cuban people should go on suffering".
- In a 4 June 2009 editorial entitled "Mr. Obama, Cuba and the O.A.S." the influential *New York Times* newspaper described the embargo as "a cold war anachronism kept alive by Florida politics", and added that "Mr. Obama must go further and press Congress to lift the embargo".
- The Council on Hemispheric Affairs published an article on 12 June 2009 acknowledging the failure of the embargo and describing the measures taken by President Obama as inadequate.
- On 16 June 2009, the Cato Institute published an article that described the United States policy towards Cuba as a failure and suggested that Congress and the President should lift the embargo.
- On 7 August 2009, George Schultz, who was Secretary of State during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, told the Peruvian magazine, *Caretas*, that "The

decision to keep the embargo does not seem smart to me. I would not negotiate with Castro on that basis. I would simply lift it".

- On 2 September 2009, the non-governmental organization Amnesty International published a report entitled "The US embargo against Cuba: Its impact on economic and social rights", in which Obama was urged to lift the embargo and to not renew sanctions against Cuba based on the Trading With the Enemy Act.

- At its twenty-sixth Constitutional Convention, held from 13 to 17 September 2009, the powerful American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, with a membership of more than 50 United States labour union organizations, adopted a resolution which, inter alia, urged Congress to adopt legislation that would end the embargo. The organization called the embargo the harshest ever maintained by the United States against any country in the world.

- On 29 October 2009, the Green Party of the United States called upon President Obama to end the embargo against Cuba. In its statement, it argued that the United States continued to impose severe economic sanctions on the Cuban people primarily to attract a small percentage of votes in Florida. The Green Party's national platform supported an immediate end to those sanctions, calling the policy a violation of human rights and an obstacle to the sale of food and medicine to a sovereign nation that posed no threat to the United States.

- On 5 April 2010, the *Peoria Journal Star* quoted statements by the Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, who said that he was anxious for the United States to expand trade with Cuba as "long as it coincides with our values". He said that he wanted to see trade barriers with all countries knocked down.

- Former President Bill Clinton said, during a press briefing on 17 April 2010, at a conference at the University of Miami, that the embargo against Cuba had not worked and that he supported a lifting of the restrictions against Cuba.

- On 18 April 2010, the *New York Times* published an editorial on President Obama's policy towards Latin America, expressing the view that the embargo should be completely lifted.

Legislative initiatives that enjoy bipartisan support, including the bills on freedom of travel (with 178 and 38 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively) and the report circulated by Senator Richard Lugar (Republican-Indiana), calling for a change in Cuba policy and the ending of restrictions on Cuba, have been introduced in Congress.

On 8 January 2010, the website Platts.com, which specializes in energy, published an article that reported on the statements by Robert Dillon, spokesman for Senator Lisa Murkowski (Republican-Alaska), that the Energy Committee had voted seven months previously in favour of bill S 1517, submitted by Murkowski in July 2009, which would permit participation in oil exploration in Cuba's exclusive economic zone and travel related to that activity.

On 23 February 2010, Representative Collin Peterson (Democrat-Minnesota), Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, together with 38 other co-sponsors, introduced HR 4645, which would allow people to travel freely to

Cuba, amend the policy of payment in cash in advance and allow the use of United States financial institutions for agricultural sales transactions.

That bill has the support of the United States Chamber of Commerce and state and federal agricultural associations, such as the Agricultural Federation, the USA Rice Federation, the National Milk Producers Federation, the National Corn Growers Association and the American Soybean Association.

In addition, various polls taken during the reporting period show that most people in the United States support travel by United States citizens to Cuba and the lifting of the embargo. As the following results show, such support has never been as strong.

- According to the results of a CNN poll conducted from 3 to 5 April 2009, published on 10 April 2009, 64 per cent of those surveyed felt that the restrictions on travel to Cuba should be lifted, while 71 per cent supported the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

- On 24 April 2009, Gallup published the results of a poll carried out on 20 and 21 April, which showed that 51 per cent of United States citizens were in favour of ending the embargo against Cuba and 64 per cent were in favour of ending the restrictions on travel to Cuba. Most of those supporting such policies are Democrats and liberals.

- From 23 to 27 April 2009, Orbitz Worldwide, the second largest Internet travel agency, conducted a survey of United States citizens which showed that 67 per cent of those polled would support a policy that allowed United States citizens to travel to Cuba and 72 per cent said that an expansion of travel and tourism to Cuba would have a positive impact on the daily life of the Cuban people.

- According to the results of a BBC/Harris Interactive poll conducted from 13 to 15 January 2010, of 2,050 United States citizens and published in the *Nuevo Herald* on 3 March 2010, 57 per cent of respondents said that United States companies were losing opportunities in Cuba, 63 per cent said that, while the Government of Cuba was not a friend of Washington, it was not its enemy either. Of those polled, 75 per cent said that relations with Cuba were important, while 44 per cent said that it was too soon to resume normal relations with Cuba and 38 per cent were opposed to doing so.

- On 15 April 2010, Insider Advantage polled 401 United States citizens nationwide for the Cuba Business Bureau. The survey showed that 58 per cent of respondents support the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States; 61 per cent are in favour of travel by United States citizens to Cuba and 57 per cent support United States companies doing business with Cuba.

5.2 International opposition

There is growing and overwhelming international community support for Cuba and opposition to the embargo.

Many voices are being raised around the world, in favour of halting this inhuman policy. During the period covered by this report, many declarations have been made demanding the immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo.

The most prominent of those are:

- At the fifteenth summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009, the Heads of State and Government adopted a Special Declaration on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba wherein, inter alia, "They express their concern over the continuation of that long-standing unilateral policy with extraterritorial effects, even after it has been consistently rejected by the overwhelming majority of States" and call for its immediate end.

- At the second Africa-South America Summit, held in Margarita Island in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from 22 to 27 September 2009, the Heads of State and Government of the countries of the South American Union of Nations and the African Union issued a communiqué of solidarity with Cuba and against the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America, including the Helms-Burton Act, in which they reiterated their strongest rejection of the embargo and the application of laws and measures, such as the Helms-Burton Act, that are contrary to international law, and urged the Government of the United States to end its application.

- On 16 and 17 October 2009, at the seventh Summit of the Countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, held in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba was categorically rejected. The Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America reiterated that the United States of America unilaterally and immediately should bring an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba without any preconditions.

- On 28 October 2009, for the eighteenth consecutive time since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly, with the support of the overwhelming majority of Member States, adopted by 187 votes in favour, resolution 64/6 entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba"; it was the highest number of votes ever given to a resolution on this item in the General Assembly. The General Assembly categorically reiterated the call to halt this illegal and genocidal policy imposed on the Cuban people by the United States Government.

- In their final declaration at the eighth Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement, held on 13 and 14 December 2009 in Havana, the heads of State and Government of the member countries reiterated, once more, their outright rejection of the economic, commercial and financial embargo the Government of the United States of America had imposed against Cuba for more than five decades, called for an immediate end thereto and reaffirmed their complete solidarity with the people and Government of Cuba.

- At the Unity Summit, constituted by the twenty-first Summit of the Rio Group and the second Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development, the Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin

America and the Caribbean, gathered in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, adopted a Declaration on the Need to End the United States Economic, Trade and Financial Embargo against Cuba in which they reiterated the "most vigorous rejection of the legal application of laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Law", and appealed "to the Government of the United States to put an end" to the embargo.

– On 18 May 2010, at the sixth Latin America and the Caribbean-European Union Summit, held in Madrid, the Heads of State and Government of the two regions adopted the following final declaration:

> "We firmly reject all coercive measures of unilateral character with extraterritorial effect that are contrary to international law and the commonly accepted rules of free trade. We agree that this type of practice poses a serious threat to multilateralism. In this context, and with reference to United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/6, we reaffirm our well-known positions on the application of the extraterritorial provisions of the Helms-Burton Act."

Conclusions

The embargo against Cuba remains intact. The complex framework of laws and regulations governing this policy has not been dismantled. The embargo against Cuba has been the longest and harshest the United States has ever enforced against any country. Although it was officially decreed in 1962, it began to be implemented as soon as the Cuban revolution triumphed in 1959.

The embargo violates international law. It is contrary to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. It violates a sovereign State's right to peace, development and security. In its essence and its aims, it is a unilateral act of aggression and an ongoing threat to the stability of a country. The embargo is a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of an entire people. It also violates the constitutional rights of the people of the United States, by infringing on their freedom to travel to Cuba. It furthermore violates the sovereign rights of many other States owing to its extraterritorial nature.

The accumulated direct economic damage caused to the Cuban people by the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo, by December 2009, based on very conservative estimates, amounted to more than US$ 100,154,000 at current prices.

That figure would have been as much as US$ 239,533,000 if the calculation had been based on the Consumer Price Index inflation rate of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.

If the estimates were to take into account the fact that the value of the dollar — calculated in terms of the price of gold on the international financial market — fell by more than 30 times between 1961, when the price of gold was fixed at US$ 35 per

troy ounce, and the end of 2009, when it exceeded US$ 1,000 per ounce, the total impact on the Cuban economy would be about US$ 751,363,000.[5]

The embargo continues to be an absurd, illegal and morally unsustainable policy that has not succeeded and will not succeed in its purpose of crushing the patriotic resolve of the Cuban people to preserve its sovereignty, independence and right to self-determination; however, it leads to shortages and suffering for the people, hampers and delays Cuba's development and seriously harms the economy of Cuba. It is the main obstacle to Cuba's economic development.

The President of the United States has enough authority to ease the embargo against Cuba, without need for action by Congress. However, he lacks the political will to end the embargo.

The embargo is a unilateral measure and must be lifted unilaterally, without the need for any gesture on Cuba's part. Therefore, the United States must lift it without any further delay, or excuses.

Cuba hopes that it can once again count on the support of the international community in its legitimate demand for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States Government.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[29 April 2010]

It is the consistent position of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to oppose all kinds of sanctions including economic, commercial and financial embargoes on sovereign States.

The unilateral and extraterritorial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba constitutes an obvious infringement upon the sovereignty of Cuba and violates the Charter of the United Nations and international law, thus arousing serious concern and denunciation on the part of the United Nations and the international community.

The criminal blockade policy against Cuba pursued by the United States for nearly five decades has caused great losses to Cuba in the economic and social fields and severely hindered the Cuban effort to achieve the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals.

Therefore the unilateral and extraterritorial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba should be terminated, without delay, in conformity with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the demands of the international community.

[5] To obtain this figure, the series of figures showing the impact of the embargo each year since 1961 was used; those annual amounts were then converted into dollars. The prices of gold on the international market at the end of each year, taken from the statistical series published on the United States website USAGOLD (www.usagold.com), were used. To calculate the extent to which the dollar had fallen against gold, the price of gold at the end of 2009 was divided by the prices for each year, which showed that the dollar had depreciated 31.1 times between 1971 and 2009.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fully supports the effort of the Government and people of Cuba to end the embargo of the United States and will continue to further expand and develop economic and trade relations with Cuba in the future.

Dominica

[Original: English]
[27 May 2010]

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has not implemented nor is it contemplating the imposition of any economic, commercial or financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba. We also call upon all member states of the United Nations to remove all existing embargo against the People of the Republic of Cuba.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the Republic of Cuba there exists a progressive relationship between the two countries. This has been most prominent in the areas of health care and education. Technical assistance in agriculture, fisheries and civil works in the spirit of South-South cooperation continues to deepen and strengthen our relationship.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]
[29 May 2010]

The Dominican Republic abides, in its international relations, by the international norms and principles governing cooperation and trade among nations, underpinned by the Charter of the United Nations and the other norms of international law. It therefore refrains from promulgating and/or applying any laws that are inconsistent with those norms and principles.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[11 May 2010]

Ecuador highly values its relationship with Cuba and is determined to further strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation and the smooth economic, commercial and cultural relationship which it has with that fraternal country.

Ecuador condemns the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, and demands the immediate and unconditional lifting of all the unilateral measures imposed by that country against the Caribbean nation.

The embargo imposed against Cuba violates the basic norms of international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles that govern the peaceful coexistence of States.

The embargo imposed against Cuba has grave economic and social consequences for the Caribbean nation and has created an enormous humanitarian crisis.

Ecuador finds it totally unacceptable for unilateral extraterritorial measures to be imposed by a third party. Such measures include those contained in the United States Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the 1996 Helms-Burton Act.

Ecuador, as part of its policy on this issue, promotes international community action, at both the regional and international levels and in political coordination forums, to lift the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba. In that regard, it shares the unanimous and principled positions maintained on the issue by the Ibero-American countries, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77.

Egypt

[Original: English]
[26 April 2010]

The delegation of Egypt voted in favour of resolution 64/6 in line with Egypt's consistent view that unilateral sanctions outside the United Nations framework are not a course of action that Egypt can condone.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2010]

The Republic of El Salvador, which has always been committed to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to international law, reports that it has never promulgated or applied laws or measures the extraterritorial effects of which would affect the sovereignty of the Republic of Cuba, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under its jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

On the contrary, it should be noted, as reported in A/63/937, that the Republic of El Salvador restored full diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba, and is fully committed to maintaining cordial and friendly bilateral relations in all spheres between the two countries.

Equatorial Guinea

[Original: Spanish]
[18 June 2010]

The Government of Equatorial Guinea reiterates its position in favour of the lifting of the embargo, sharing the desire of the majority of States Members of the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

The position of the Government of Equatorial Guinea on the matter is unwavering, consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United

Nations as set forth in Articles 1 and 2, which are based, inter alia, on the principle of maintaining international peace and security and on the premise that all States Members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with that Charter. The economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been imposed against Cuba for more than five decades continues to constitute an enormous impediment to its comprehensive development and the well-being of its people.

The Permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea, while appreciating in advance all measures and mechanisms that the Secretary-General of the United Nations sees fit to adopt with a view to the effective implementation of the resolution in question, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, calls for the urgent lifting of the embargo, in order to restore to Cuba its legitimate rights and permit its people to achieve sustainable development.

Eritrea

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

The Government of the State of Eritrea has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Eritrea is strongly opposed to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, which is inconsistent with the principles of international law.

Eritrea joins other States in calling for the immediate repeal or invalidation of such laws or measures, which are having adverse effects on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries.

Ethiopia

[Original: English]
[25 May 2010]

Ethiopia views the continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba as a violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States and of non-interference in each others' domestic affairs. In addition, the embargo has caused huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba.

The Government of Ethiopia therefore wishes to see the embargo lifted in order for the people and the Government of Cuba to enjoy their sovereignty in accordance with the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Ethiopia believes that constructive dialogue is necessary to foster mutual trust and understanding among the nations of the world.

European Union

[Original: English]
[21 May 2010]

The European Union believes that the United States trade policy towards Cuba is fundamentally a bilateral issue. Notwithstanding this, the European Union and its member States have been clearly expressing their opposition to the extraterritorial extension of the United States embargo, such as that contained in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996.

It should be underlined that, in November 1996, the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted a regulation and a joint action to protect the interests of natural or legal persons resident in the European Union against the extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton legislation, which prohibits compliance with that legislation. Moreover, on 18 May 1998, at the European Union/United States Summit in London, a package was agreed covering waivers to titles III and IV of the helms-Burton Act; a commitment by the United States administration to resist future extraterritorial legislation of that kind; and an understanding with respect to disciplines for the strengthening of investment protection. The European Union continues to urge the United States to implement its side of the Understanding of 18 May 1998.

Fiji

[Original: English]
[6 July 2010]

The Permanent Representative of Fiji reaffirms his country's support for the resolution 64/6. Fiji takes this opportunity to reiterate his country's position that all States should refrain from imposing economic sanctions of the nature referred to in the resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

In response to the Secretary-General's note, the Permanent Representative of Fiji wishes to affirm that Fiji has not taken any measures that might impair economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Fiji. On the contrary, Fiji is intent on developing cooperative relations with all countries and in this regards fully supports the call for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

Gabon

[Original: French]
[9 July 2010]

The position of Gabon on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba remains unchanged.

In December 2009, Gabon voted in favour of the adoption by the Member States of our Organization of the resolution on ending that embargo.

The embargo runs counter to the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Gabon remains concerned over further measures aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries.

Gambia

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

Gambia has not promulgated or applied any laws, measures or acts which have extraterritorial effects on the sovereignty of other member states, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

We continue to be opposed to the enactment or application of such laws or measures against Cuba which impede the free and smooth flow of international trade and navigation. We also believe that the numerous General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the decades-old embargo against Cuba should be respected by all. The embargo must come to an end.

As a responsible member of the international community, Gambia therefore joins other member states in calling for the immediate repeal or invalidation of such laws, measures or policies as they are contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Ghana

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

The Republic of Ghana, in fulfilment of its commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, has steadfastly refrained effects adversely affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction or the freedom of trade or navigation.

With specific reference to resolution 64/6, Ghana regards Cuba as an important member of the international community and has also fully entered into partnerships for the mutual benefit of both countries in the areas of trade, education and health.

Grenada

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

Grenada continues to express its profound concern at the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo unilaterally imposed, for nearly half a century, by the United States of America against Cuba. This embargo violates the basic norms of international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles that govern the peaceful coexistence of States.

Moreover, these measures infringe on the sovereign rights of all Cubans, contravene the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and are counterproductive to the goals of human development.

The Government of Grenada therefore, neither promulgates, applies nor condones laws or measures that would encroach on or undermine the sovereign rights of any State; any law that would restrict or hinder international trade or navigation by any State; or any unilateral application of economic and trade measures that would restrict the growth and development of any state.

Against this backdrop, Grenada has consistently called for the removal of the measures imposed on Cuba by the United States through its economic, commercial and financial embargo.

Grenada recognizes, upholds and adheres to the principles of the United Nations, including that of the sovereignty and equality of States and therefore once again unreservedly supports General Assembly resolution 64/6, which calls for an immediate end to the unilateral embargo against Cuba.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[7 June 2010]

The Republic of Guatemala, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/6, wishes to report that the State of Guatemala has neither promulgated nor applied laws or any type of measure contrary to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, or contrary to the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Therefore, Guatemala is able to state that there are no legal or regulatory hindrances to free transit or trade between Guatemala and Cuba.

Guatemala rejects any unilateral measure opposed to the principles of free international trade and law and urges those countries that continue to maintain such provisions in their domestic legal regulations to take the necessary steps to abrogate or rescind them.

Guinea

[Original: French]
[16 June 2010]

The people and Government of Guinea are deeply concerned by the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against the people of Cuba, which is a matter to which they accord particular attention.

The Republic of Guinea, in accordance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law; wishing to honour its international commitments; respectful of the rules, purposes and principles that govern the subregional, regional and international organizations and institutions of which it is a member; solemnly reaffirming its belief in the principles of equality, the sovereignty of States and non-intervention in the internal affairs of another State; rejects laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects and all other forms of coercive economic measures and on the grounds of its belief in the freedom of international trade and navigation, demands that this unjust embargo, which has caused the Cuban people such suffering and so much economic, financial and social harm, should be lifted immediately and unconditionally.

The Government of Guinea, aware that the embargo constitutes an attack on human rights in particular and international law in general, reserves the right to apply all the provisions of the various resolutions relating to this embargo. In that regard, it makes an urgent appeal for the immediate and complete lifting of the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been in place against Cuba since 1962. The Republic of Guinea, as it has always done, will vote in favour of any resolution that reaffirms the necessity of finally ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Guinea-Bissau

[Original: English]
[19 May 2010]

Guinea-Bissau reaffirms that these discriminatory commercial practices and the extraterritorial application of national laws are contrary to the need to promote dialogue and to the proper application of the principles and objectives enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of Guinea-Bissau did not support any of the resolutions that were adopted against Cuba. Nor has the Government put in place at national level any mechanisms that might have given effect to such resolutions, considering their unilateral character contrary to international law, as concerns free trade and the free exercise of navigation rights.

Guinea-Bissau regrets, therefore, that this blockade of almost 50 years continues to cause serious economic, financial, health and other damage to Cuba.

Notwithstanding that in the past 16 years, the General Assembly, backed by a majority vote, has passed successive resolutions on the need to end the blockade, there has been no sign of flexibility on the part of the United States regarding its persistent policy of economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.

Guinea-Bissau recognizes the importance that the Secretary-General attaches to this issue and calls for the implementation of resolution 64/6. It also calls upon the international community to continue with efforts to ensure that the two countries can engage in a constructive dialogue aimed at establishing normal relations between them.

Guyana

[Original: English]
[28 May 2010]

The Government of Guyana ha consistently demonstrated its unwavering respect for and adherence to the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those stated in General Assembly Resolution 64/6.

To this end, Guyana has not enacted any legislation or adopted any policies or practices the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States.

Guyana has also, as a matter of principle, maintained a consistent position of firm opposition to the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed against Cuba and reiterates the call for an end to this policy. Guyana encourages the process of dialogue between the United States of America and Cuba.

The Government of Guyana is in full compliance with and remains fully supportive of General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Haiti

[Original: French]
[25 May 2010]

Haiti has refrained from promulgating and applying laws and regulations with territorial effects that affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction as well as freedom of trade and navigation. The Republic of Haiti is thus observing all the requirements of resolution 64/6.

Holy See

[Original: English]
[25 June 2010]

It is not Holy See's practice to draw up or apply economic, commercial or financial laws or measures against countries.

India

[Original: English]
[19 May 2010]

India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble of the above-mentioned resolution and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.

India has consistently opposed any unilateral measures by countries that impinge on the sovereignty of another country. These include any attempt to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations.

India recalls the final documents adopted by the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009, as well as other high-level decisions of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on this subject, and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

Indonesia

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba for the past 5 decades has caused hardship for the people of Cuba.

The continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba violates the principles of the sovereign equality of states and of non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs, international humanitarian law, the United Nations charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among states.

Indonesia is committed to the creation a better world for all, in which nations, large or small, could co-exist peacefully. The achievement of such peaceful co-existence among nations requires an adherence by all nations to the cardinal principles of the United Nations Charter and the peaceful conduct of relations among nations.

Indonesia joins other countries in calling upon the United States to heed the increasing calls to bring an end to the five-decades-old embargo and to fully adhere to the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs. The embargo hampers efforts towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, it would not support recent efforts to create a new global economic architecture that promotes inclusiveness and sustainability.

For the past few years, Indonesia has also noted several external challenges that have further burdened the people of Cuba, namely in 2008 of the effects of the global financial and economic crisis and also natural disasters, especially of hurricane Gustav.

Since this resolution was introduced in 1994, it has received strong support from member countries of the United Nations, including Indonesia. Indonesia continues to support this resolution and calls for the immediate cessation of such an embargo.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[8 June 2010]

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba runs counter to the principles of international law governing relations among States and contradicts the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for promoting solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among nations. Such measures continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and to hamper the efforts of the Cuban Government to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, the embargo is constraining the efforts of the Cuban Government to eradicate poverty and hunger and to promote health and education, which are indispensable means for the achievement of economic and social development.

Differences and problems among countries should be resolved through peaceful dialogue and negotiation, on the equal basis and full respect for sovereignty of each State. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba, which has lasted for decades, serves no purpose other than inflicting hardship and suffering on the people of Cuba, especially women and children. The embargo which unfortunately remains in effect, has seriously jeopardized the legitimate rights and interests of Cuba and other States, and should be lifted in line with the unequivocal and continued request of the United Nations' Member States.

The adoption of the relevant resolutions, with such a wide range of support and for so many years, clearly indicates the strong objection of the international community to unilateral economic coercive measures in general, and the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, in particular. Furthermore, as the international community is facing major challenges such as the global financial and economic crisis and thus increased poverty, unemployment and malnutrition, the imposition of embargoes and sanctions will be more unjustifiable than ever and deserve stronger objections and appropriate reactions at the global level.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly rejects and remains opposed to the application of unilateral economic and trade measures by one state against another that affect the free flow of international trade and financial resources, as well as to the extraterritorial application and effects of national legislation on the sovereignty of other States. Such actions are contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been experiencing economic coercive measures, shares the concern of the Cuban people and Government and, therefore, emphasizes the urgent need to put an end to such measures against Cuba and other developing countries and the full implementation of the contents of General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/6.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

The Government of Jamaica remains opposed to the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that would obstruct the freedom of commercial activity, trade and economic cooperation.

To this end and in keeping with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Government of Jamaica has not promulgated any law, legislation or measure that would infringe on the sovereignty of a State or its lawful national interests.

In support of this position, in October 2009 the House of Representatives of Jamaica approved a resolution supporting the removal of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, noting that it affects the free flow of trade not only in the region, but in the hemisphere.

Consequently, the Government of Jamaica reiterates its support for General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and urges all States that continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible.

Japan

[Original: English]
[29 April 2010]

The Government of Japan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind that are referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution 64/6.

The Government of Japan believes that the economic policy of the United States towards Cuba should be considered primarily as a bilateral issue. However, Japan shares the concern, arising from the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (known as the Helms-Burton Act) and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, that, if application of such legislation causes undue hardship in relation to the economic activities of the enterprises or nationals of a third party, the legislation is likely to run counter to international law regarding the extraterritorial application of domestic laws.

The Government of Japan has been closely following the situation in relation to the above-mentioned legislation and the surrounding circumstances, and its concern remains unchanged. Having considered the matter with the utmost care, Japan voted in favour of resolution 64/6.

Kazakhstan

[Original: English]
[21 April 2010]

In its foreign policy Kazakhstan is guided by the principles of international law and stands for the rights of nations to develop according to their own way of development. Kazakhstan strongly condemns any unilateral actions involving the use of economic and trade measures by one State, the exterritorial implications of which affect the sovereignty of another State.

In this regard, Kazakhstan calls for an immediate end to such actions against Cuba.

Kenya

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

The Government of Kenya reaffirms its objection to unilateral coercive measures which are at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and International Law. The majority of the Members of the United Nations and other Organizations have all called for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. Kenya believes and upholds the principles of maintaining friendly relations, including commerce, among nations for the promotion of peace and security as indispensable ingredients for the social and economic advancement for all people.

Kiribati

[Original: English]
[27 May 2010]

The resolution holds moral and humanitarian considerations which, when adopted, will positively contribute to improving the general welfare and well-being of the people of Cuba.

Kuwait

[Original: English]
[8 July 2010]

The Mission of the State of Kuwait has the honour to inform that the State of Kuwait supports the implementation of the aforementioned resolution with an emphasis on the need to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations Charter, the sovereign equality of States and the non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Furthermore, the Mission of the State of Kuwait wishes to inform that the State of Kuwait has always voted in favour of the resolutions of the United Nations

General Assembly calling for the lifting of the United States embargo imposed on Cuba.

Kyrgyzstan

[Original: Russian]
[25 May 2010]

Kyrgyzstan adheres strictly in its foreign policy to the norms and principles of international law. It advocates observance of the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

In accordance with the fundamental principles of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, Kyrgyzstan is not promulgating or applying any laws and measures with extraterritorial effects that affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

[Original: English]
[17 May 2010]

It is unfortunate that the embargo imposed by the United States over the past years against Cuba, an independent and sovereign country, continues to be in effect. Such an embargo, with its extraterritorial implications, has not only hindered the progress of Cuba in its socio-economic development and caused untold sufferings to its people, but has also violated the principles of international law and that of the sovereign equality of States, as well as of freedom of international trade and navigation. As far as the Lao People's Democratic Republic is concerned, in adhering to and complying with all principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, it has neither promulgated nor introduced any laws and measures of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the above resolution.

Latvia

[Original: English]
[28 May 2010]

The Republic of Latvia as a member state of the European Union supports the single European Union position in the matter of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. The European Union supports the General Assembly resolution with regard to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and condemns the said embargo by regarding such radical measures only to further the existence of the Cuban regime and to impede advancement of pluralistic democracy in Cuba.

The Council of the European Union has adopted Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 of 22 November 1996 which provides protection against the effects of the extra-territorial application of legislation adopted by a third country, and actions based thereon or resulting there from. This Regulation provides protection against and counteracts the effects of the extra-territorial application of the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996" adopted by the United States of America. The said Regulation provides that no judgement of a court or tribunal and no decision of an administrative authority located outside the European Union giving effect, directly or indirectly, to the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996" or to actions based thereon or resulting there from, shall be recognized or be enforceable in any manner.

Furthermore, no person (any natural person being a resident in the European Union and a national of a member state; any legal person incorporated within the European Union; any national of the member states established outside the European Union and shipping company established outside the European Union and controlled by national of a member state; any other natural person being a resident in the European Union; any other natural person within the European Union, including its territorial waters and air space and in any aircraft or on any vessel under the jurisdiction or control of a member state, acting in professional capacity) shall comply with any requirement or prohibition, including requests of foreign courts, based on or resulting, directly or indirectly, from the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996" or from actions based thereon or resulting therefrom.

The said Council Regulation is binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all member states of the European Union.

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[30 April 2010]

Lebanon is committed to the decisions of General Assembly resolution 64/6 dated 1 December 2009.

Lesotho

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

The Kingdom of Lesotho reaffirms its commitment to the provisions and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, which, inter alia, provide for sovereign equality of states, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Kingdom of Lesotho is deeply concerned about the harmful effects of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. In this regard, Lesotho will continue to make a call for the lifting of the embargo against the people of Cuba.

Liberia

[Original: English]
[7 June 2010]

The Government of Liberia wishes to reaffirm the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of United Nations, which established the freedom of trade and navigation, the sovereign equality of all States and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. In this connection, the Government of Liberia therefore supports the ending of the unilateral economic and trade embargo against Cuba and will continue to support its vigorous call for the lifting of the embargo.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic and English]
[1 June 2010]

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya once again affirms its strong opposition to the imposition of unilateral measures on States for political purposes, and stresses that this practice does not help to resolve but, on the contrary, exacerbates conflicts between States.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has consistently expressed its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of international law. It has never promulgated or applied any laws akin to those referred to in General Assembly resolution 64/6, paragraphs 2 and 3. On the contrary, it has itself been the victim of that type of tyrannical measure.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya voices its deep concern over the continued application by certain States of harsh unilateral economic measures that have a supraregional impact and constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 64/6 in order to stress its position in opposition to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba and calls on states to resolve their differences by peaceful means, without resorting to harsh unilateral measures that constitute a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United nations and of human rights, and an obstacle to efforts to achieve the development that is one of the lofty goals of the United Nations.

Liechtenstein

[Original: English]
[16 April 2010]

The Government of Liechtenstein has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 64/6. The Government of Liechtenstein is furthermore of the view that legislation whose implementation entails measures or regulations having extraterritorial effects is inconsistent with generally recognized principles of international law.

Lithuania

[Original: English]
[28 April 2010]

Lithuania neither unilaterally nor multilaterally as a member State of the European Union applies any restrictive measures against Cuba.

Madagascar

[Original: French]
[6 May 2010]

Pursuant to the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-intervention in internal affairs that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and in accordance with international law, which provides for freedom of trade and navigation, Madagascar has always been in favour of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba, and maintains its solidarity with the other Member States of the United Nations.

Malawi

[Original: English]
[3 June 2010]

The Ministry wishes to inform the United Nations, as has always been the case, that the Government of the Republic of Malawi does not have sanctions or any embargo against the Government of Cuba. The Government of Malawi is one of those countries that continue to enjoy excellent relations with the Government of Cuba through a number of fora such as the Non Aligned Movement and many others.

The Government of Malawi further wishes to reiterate its opposition of such unilateral application of economic and trade sanctions against one state by another on the basis of their differences of opinion or political orientation as such sanctions only serve to perpetrate the suffering of ordinary people. In this regard, the Government of Malawi joins the rest of the international community in calling for the lifting of these sanctions on the Government of Cuba.

Malaysia

[Original: English]
[16 June 2010]

Malaysia, along with 187 other Member States of the United Nations had voted in favour of General Assembly Resolution 64/6. We have also supported earlier resolutions related to the same subject and has extended similar support for earlier resolutions related to the same subject. In line with Malaysia's principled positions on the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and freedom of international trade and navigation, Malaysia will continue to extend its support to a similar resolution. Malaysia strongly believes that

no State should ever violate those principles by imposing a unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo on another State.

Malaysia is concerned by the continued application of unilateral embargo against Cuba, which is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and against the principles of international law. Malaysia urges States that apply or implement such unilateral measures against Cuba to immediately cease their practices and to resolve their disputes amicably through dialogue and negotiation.

Malaysia will continue to strengthen its bilateral relations with Cuba for the mutual benefit of both countries. Malaysia firmly believes that its relations with Cuba will be further enhanced in various spheres, in particular in the economic and trade sectors, in the absence of any unilateral embargo imposed against Cuba. In this context, Malaysia reiterates its full support for the international community's efforts, as contained in General Assembly Resolution 64/6 and other relevant resolutions, which calls for an end to the unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Maldives

[Original: English]
[17 June 2010]

The Maldives has not enacted any laws or regulations that contravene the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 63/07.

The Maldives does not impose any sanctions against any country without an explicit mandate from the General Assembly or the Security Council of the United Nations or from those international organizations of which the Maldives is a member.

Mali

[Original: French]
[28 April 2010]

The Government of Mali fully supported General Assembly resolution 64/6 and voted in favour of it.

The Government of Mali has neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures whose extraterritorial effects impinge on the sovereignty of other States. It therefore fully supports the provisions of this resolution.

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[3 June 2010]

The Government of Mauritius has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the Preamble of Resolution 64/6.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[2 June 2010]

The Government of Mexico responded promptly to the Secretary-General's request for information on resolution 64/6, adopted by a vote on 28 October 2009 at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, which was supported by the Mexican delegation.

The Government of Mexico once again states its firm rejection both of the application of unilateral laws or measures imposing an economic embargo against any Member State of the United Nations, and of the use of coercive measures that have no legal basis in the Charter of the United Nations. Mexico stresses that this type of measure has serious humanitarian consequences that are contrary to international law and signify the abandonment of diplomacy and dialogue as the appropriate ways of settling disputes between States.

Mexico reaffirms its traditional and principled position that any type of political, economic or military sanctions imposed on States can only emanate from a decision or recommendation formulated by the Security Council or the General Assembly. Multilateralism continues to be the best way of settling disputes and ensuring peaceful coexistence between States.

Mexico emphasizes that it is through the observance of international law and the rules and principles governing coexistence between nations, regardless of asymmetries or disparities, and through respectful dialogue that States are able to overcome their differences and ensure a climate of international peace.

Through various mechanisms, the Mexican Government has shared with the international community its firm position against national laws which are designed to be applied extraterritorially in third countries because they run counter to international law. In keeping with that position, the Mexican State promulgated the Act on Protection of Trade and Investment against Foreign Norms which Violate International Law, which has been in force since 23 October 1996 and is designed to prohibit acts which affect trade or investment when such acts result from the extraterritorial effects of foreign laws.

The Government of Mexico wishes once again to place on record that its bilateral and multilateral relations with other States are based on general principles of international law that govern peaceful and civilized coexistence between sovereign nations in the modern world. The principles enunciated have provided a firm basis and continuity in the relations between Mexico and Cuba. Accordingly, the Government of Mexico, in a gesture full of meaning for the relations between the two countries, voted in favour of the resolution which the Government of Cuba submitted to the United Nations General Assembly for adoption for the first time in 1992, with a view to rejecting and ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States against Cuba. Since then, Mexico has reconfirmed the principles of its foreign policy and has voted in favour of the resolution on this item which the Government of Cuba has submitted to the General Assembly for adoption every year for the past 18 years.

The Government of Mexico has also consistently opposed Cuba's economic and political-diplomatic isolation. It has therefore firmly supported Cuba's inclusion

in all regional integration machinery in order to promote economic and commercial exchange, cooperation and development.

Mexico and Cuba maintain unbreakable historical ties, sustained in a climate of renewed trust, consistently respecting the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in particular peaceful coexistence, respect for the sovereignty and sovereign equality of States, and non-interference in their internal affairs. On this basis, opportunities for cooperation and respectful dialogue have been encouraged by Mexico through bilateral dialogue and in the competent regional and international forums and mechanisms.

The relationship between Mexico and Cuba is following a constructive course, so that exchanges can be enhanced, inter alia, in political, social, economic, commercial, financial and educational areas, science and technology, migration and health, to the benefit of both peoples.

Mexico encourages political, economic and commercial contacts with Cuba, which are fostered by the agreements concluded by the two countries at the Third Meeting of the Standing Mexico-Cuba Information and Consultation Mechanism, held in March 2008, designed to enhance exchanges in the various areas covered by the bilateral relationship. Particular mention should be made of the commitments to hold meetings of the existing bilateral mechanisms, including those dealing with the areas of migration, drug trafficking, trade and industrial development, transport, agriculture and fisheries, foreign trade, tourism, health and development; and of the formulation of an economic relations development programme including, among other components, trade missions, review of the implementation of the Bilateral Economic Complementarity Agreement, broad dissemination of the Bilateral Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments and reactivation of the Mexico-Cuba Intergovernmental Working Group for Economic and Industrial Collaboration, which is responsible for coordinating the bilateral economic agenda.

Mexico and Cuba have signed an Economic Complementarity Agreement, No. 51 under the Montevideo Treaty of 1980, which will remain in effect indefinitely. At the most recent meeting of the Mexico-Cuba Working Group on Foreign Trade held in April 2009 in Havana, it was agreed to explore avenues for broadening of Economic Complementarity Agreement No. 51.

On 30 May 2001, Mexico and Cuba signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, unanimously adopted by the Mexican Senate on 11 December 2001. The Agreement came into force on 3 May 2002.

In the budgetary and financial spheres, the Government of Mexico has not promulgated or applied laws or unilateral measures relating to an economic or financial embargo against any country, and therefore fully complies with the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/6, it maintains relations with Cuba in accordance with the interests of the two countries.

In this context of collaboration, mention should be made of the conclusion in March 2008 of the agreement for the restructuring of Cuba's debt to Mexico. This instrument, which conforms to the regulatory provisions in force in each country and is mutually satisfactory for both parties, helps to stimulate the development of economic and commercial relations for the benefit of both countries.

The two countries intend to guarantee legal, safe and orderly migration through the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework of shared responsibility.

In the light of the foregoing, the Government of Mexico reiterates its firm commitment to contribute actively and decisively to the effectiveness of international law under this agenda item of the General Assembly.

Mongolia

[Original: English]
[9 July 2010]

In compliance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, Mongolia informs the General Assembly that, in the past year, it has not promulgated or applied any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 64/6.

It is in this context that Mongolia has consistently voted in favour of the aforementioned resolution and reiterates its support for its provisions.

Montenegro

[Original: English]
[23 June 2010]

The Government of Montenegro has supported General Assembly resolution 64/6. Montenegro, as the youngest member of the United Nations community, is ready to further develop cooperation with Cuba both at the bilateral and multilateral level.

Morocco

[Original: French]
[4 June 2010]

The Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its firm attachment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the cardinal principles of international law.

The Kingdom of Morocco has always favoured the development of friendly relations between the States Members of the United Nations.

Mozambique

[Original: English]
[30 June 2010]

The Republic of Mozambique has never promulgated, applied or contributed for the application of any of the laws or regulations mentioned in the said resolution. It was in this context that the Republic of Mozambique voted in favour

of the Resolution 64/6 and reiterates its unconditional support to its provisions, appealing to the United Nations to ensure that all Member States take the Resolution in consideration.

Myanmar

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

Myanmar supports the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/6 and joins the call by the international community on the United States to bring an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba.

The Union of Myanmar strongly believes that the promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interest of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation violate both the spirit and letter of the United Nations Charter and the universally adopted principles of international law. Hence, Myanmar opposes all forms of economic, financial sanctions and embargoes that contradict the norms of international law.

The economic commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States on Cuba adversely affect its economy, cause undue suffering and hardship to the Cuban people and negatively impinge on third parties. Myanmar also believes that these measures will not promote peace and stability in the region. In this regard, Myanmar strongly opposes the measures imposed by the United States and joins the international community in bringing an end to these measures.

Having such a view, the Union of Myanmar has not promulgated any laws and regulations of the kind that are against the freedom of trade and international navigation.

Namibia

[Original: English]
[4 June 2010]

The Government of the Republic of Namibia upholds the principle of peaceful coexistence of nations, respects the sovereign equality of States, and believes in fair and open trade among nations. Namibia remains concerned about the promulgation and application of all laws and measures constituting an economic, commercial or financial embargo against Cuba, especially the extraterritorial nature of such laws and measures. Bilateral relations between Namibia and Cuba continue to be excellent, and thus the Government remains committed to the necessity of an immediate end of all sanctions imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. We believe that the measures imposed against Cuba have serious negative implications for the overall development and well-being of the Cuban population. Namibia strongly supports General Assembly resolution 63/7 and calls for an immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo against the Republic of Cuba, in conformity with the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

Nauru

[Original: English]
[11 May 2010]

Nauru reiterates its position that discriminatory trade practices and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws run counter to the need to promote dialogue and uphold the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

Furthermore, Nauru has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between Nauru and Cuba.

The Government of Nauru is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extraterritorial measures and, in this respect, supports the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Nepal

[Original: English]
[30 June 2010]

The Government of Nepal has strictly adhered to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 64/6 and has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures contrary to the resolution.

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2010]

The Government of Nicaragua, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, reaffirms once more its unwavering respect for the sovereign equality of States, the principle of non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs, and the freedom of international trade and navigation, set forth in various international instruments, as well as for other principles that are essential to peaceful coexistence. It also reiterates the right of every State to choose, as it wishes, its own social, political and economic development system free from outside interference. Accordingly, we condemn and reject the implementation of these unilateral extraterritorial coercive measures.

In accordance with these principles, Nicaragua has not enacted any laws affecting the economic, commercial or financial rights of the fraternal people and Government of Cuba, and has not implemented any measures that might impose restrictions on trade with Cuba, since this would contravene the purposes of General Assembly resolution 64/6. Nicaraguan legislation does not acknowledge the validity of coercive extraterritorial measures and we thus condemn and reject the implementation of such measures.

Over the past year since the adoption of this resolution, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of Nicaragua has strengthened and will continue

to strengthen further its political, economic, commercial and development cooperation relations with the people and Government of Cuba both at the bilateral level and through the various cooperation and integration mechanisms that exist in the Latin American and Caribbean region, in particular the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement and Petrocaribe.

Nicaragua reiterates its emphatic rejection and condemnation of the continuance and tightening of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States of America, which not only fails to contribute to the requisite climate of dialogue and cooperation which should prevail in international relations between sovereign States but also constitutes the principal obstacle to the development of this fraternal country and its attempts to maintain its major economic and social achievements.

The response of our Cuban brothers to this cruel and devastating embargo has been one of solidarity and internationalism, the sending of more doctors and educators, more cooperation in solidarity, an increase in fair trade, in a contribution to the full development of all the peoples of the world.

The Government of Nicaragua reiterates its firm commitment to and full respect for the principles and norms of international law, and once again calls on the Government of the United States of America to comply with the 18 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly that express the views of the immense majority of the international community, which demands it end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the heroic people and Government of the fraternal Republic of Cuba.

Niger

[Original: French]
[3 June 2010]

The Government of the Republic of the Niger is deeply committed to respecting the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in internal affairs, and freedom of international trade and navigation, as established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law, and has taken no measure that conflicts with the resolution.

To the contrary, the Republic of the Niger and the Republic of Cuba have maintained good cooperative relations since 1994, the year in which the General Agreement on Cooperation between the two countries was signed.

Since then, the scope of this cooperation and the activities covered by it have evolved and expanded. The two countries regularly hold bilateral consultations, thereby attesting to the political will of their leaders to strengthen the ties of cooperation and solidarity between them, for the benefit of their peoples.

The Government of the Niger considers that each country and each people are legitimately entitled to define freely their own mode of development, with the same opportunities for success, in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

For all the above reasons, the Republic of the Niger supports the fraternal Republic of Cuba in its campaign to secure the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against it.

Nigeria

[Original: English]
[26 May 2010]

The Federal Government of Nigeria maintains friendly relations with all States and does not favour unilateral punitive measures to settle political disputes. Consequently, the Federal Government reiterates Nigeria's support for ending the embargo against Cuba.

Norway

[Original: English]
[4 June 2010]

The Government of Norway reaffirms its position in favour of resolution 64/6 on the necessity of ending the embargo against Cuba.

Norway does not promulgate or apply laws and measures referred to in resolution 64/6. Norway does not apply trade or economic legislation against Cuba that restricts or discourages trade or investment to or from Cuba. On the contrary, Norway is in favour of increased cooperation with all parts of Cuban society, including commercial relations.

Norway opposes the extraterritorial extension of unilateral measures against a third country.

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[18 June 2010]

Pakistan is fully in observance of Resolution 64/6.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[9 June 2010]

From the outset of diplomatic relations with the Government of Cuba, the Government of Panama has expressed its interest in and its commitment to maintaining and strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation in ways appropriate to their bilateral agendas and at the international level. Notwithstanding unilateral coercive measures against Cuba, the two Governments have nurtured and improved their economic, commercial and financial relations.

Cuba and Panama have, throughout our diplomatic relations, signed many agreements in a variety of fields, including combating drug trafficking, air transport, cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, cooperation in the fields of culture, education, and investment and protection of investments, political consultation mechanisms, discontinuance of visas in diplomatic passports, approval of university degrees, legal assistance in criminal matters, transfer of sentenced persons, and transfer of archives between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries.

With reference to bilateral commercial relations between Panama and Cuba, they continued to grow steadily during the period from 2004 to 2008, with trade amounting to $734,700,000.

Furthermore, according to data provided by the free trade area, trade with Cuba through the free trade area, is on the increase. Similarly, companies that conduct commercial transactions with Cuba report that such transactions take place under normal conditions.

At the United Nations, in other regional mechanisms and at presidential summits, Panama has expressed its rejection of the economic, commercial and financial embargo policy imposed against Cuba over the past 47 years. In particular, Panama, has voted in favour of the annual resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

That position has also been made clear at various forums and in the declarations and resolutions that express the rejection at the international level of the measures imposed against the Cuban people, which conflict with international law, free trade and transparency in international trade, the sovereignty of States and non-intervention in internal affairs.

Panama believes that the application of coercive unilateral measures conflicts with international law and undermines the enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural rights of peoples.

Lastly, Panama will continue to support all the efforts that are being made to put an end to the embargo against Cuba, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and urges the international community to continue to strive towards that end.

Papua New Guinea

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

Papua New Guinea reiterates its position that it has never promulgated or applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 64/6. The Government of Papua New Guinea has consistently voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba. Papua New Guinea believes that the promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects on the sovereignty of other States and legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and

navigation, are not in conformity with obligations that Member States have assumed under the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Paraguay

[Original: Spanish]
[13 May 2010]

In conformity with the principles established in the National Constitution and the Charter of the United Nations and the general principles of international law, the Government of Paraguay considers that the extraterritorial application of domestic laws infringes on the sovereignty of other States, jeopardizes the juridical equality of States and compromises the principle of non-intervention, also affecting freedom of international trade and navigation.

Paraguay fully complies with General Assembly resolution 64/6 and has not applied measures or laws of the kind indicated in that resolution.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]
[3 May 2010]

No law or measure of the kind referred to in resolution 64/6 exists or is applied in Peru.

The Government of Peru is against unilateral and extraterritorial measures that seek to affect the internal political process of a particular State. Peru considers that, in accordance with the principles of international law concerning non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, due respect for the national constitutional order is of fundamental importance in international relations.

The Government of Peru is guided in this matter by past pronouncements of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (the Rio Group) and the statements issued at the Ibero-American Summits, among others.

Finally, the Government of Peru wishes to renew its firm and unchanging commitment to the common objectives in the areas of representative democracy, the exercise of human rights and economic freedom.

Philippines

[Original: English]
[19 May 2010]

The Philippines has consistently voted in favour of ending the unilateral United States trade and economic embargo on Cuba at the United Nations General Assembly. It did so again at the 64th United Nations General Assembly in October 2009, when the Assemble voted 187-3 in favour of ending the United States sanctions against Cuba, with 2 abstentions.

The Government of the Philippines fully supports and reiterates its commitment to adhere to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/6 which calls for the ending of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

The Philippine Government would also like to reiterate that it has not imposed and does not intend to impose any laws, regulations, or measures that are contrary to the implementation of Resolution 64/6.

The Philippines and Cuba have cultural and economic ties dating as far back as the Manial-Acapulco Galleon Trade in the early 16th century.

Normal trade relations exist between the Philippines and Cuba with total trade amounting to about USD 3.75 million in 2009, with 33.25% growth rate from 2005-2009.

The Philippine Government is scheduled to host the 2nd RP-Cuba Joint Commission on Consultations and Cooperation and the 3rd RP-Cuba Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation this year. The expected outcome is a 3-year programme of cooperative endeavours in numerous fields, including science and technology, environment, biotechnology, trade, education, justice, sports, tourism, heritage restoration and culture.

The Philippines is set to sign News Cooperation Agreement between Prensa Latina of Cuba and the Philippine News Agency and is negotiating with Cuba agreements relating to cooperation to Combat Illicit Traffic of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and Maritime Transport.

Qatar

[Original: English]
[24 May 2010]

Qatar continues to support the General Assembly resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, and continues to cooperate with Cuba in the economic, trade and investment fields.

The Joint Committee on Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Cuba holds regular meetings, having held its fourth meeting in Doha in April 2008, and is planning to hold its fifth meeting in Havana in the second half of 2010. Trade between Qatar and Cuba has been improving over the past three years, with the total trade reaching $1.4 million in 2008, $1.2 million in 2007 and $1.4 million in 2006. Regarding investment, the Qatari Diar Company signed in April 2008 an investment agreement with Cuba valued at $70 million.

Russian Federation

[Original: English]
[29 April 2010]

The Russian Federation's position of principle in respect of this resolution is well known. Our country fully shares the view of the overwhelming majority of member States of the international community in firmly rejecting the United States embargo against Cuba and calling for its withdrawal as soon as possible.

We are convinced that ending the embargo against Cuba and normalizing United States-Cuban relations overall would help to improve the situation of Cuba.

We believe that the maintenance of the commercial, economic and financial embargo against Cuba by the United States is counterproductive, anachronistic and not in keeping with current realities.

Last year, the Obama Administration took steps to remove a number of restrictions on travel to Cuba by United States citizens who have relatives there and on transfers of money and postal orders to Cubans from the United States, and also to resume dialogue on migration issues. We therefore expect other actions to follow in the near future aimed at improving the relations between the two countries and, ultimately, at fully lifting the long-outdated commercial and economic embargo against Cuba.

Meanwhile, we believe that it is necessary to maintain our policy of voting in favour of the draft resolution calling for the embargo to be lifted, guided by the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the inadmissibility of any discriminatory measures or interference in the internal affairs of States.

Rwanda

[Original: English]
[12 July 2010]

Rwanda reaffirms its commitment to the purpose and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and has neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

St. Kitts and Nevis, in conformity with our obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation, does not promulgate or apply any laws or measures that affect the free flow of international trade or have extraterritorial effects which impinge on the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction.

We therefore, in recognition of the close bond of friendship with Cuba, a Caribbean nation with whom we share a rich historical and cultural heritage and with whom we enjoy a broad spectrum of cooperation that contribute to our social and economic development, firmly reject the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against Cuba.

Once again, through this medium, we call upon the Government of the United States, in the name of good neighbourliness to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which have brought untold suffering, threatens the general progress and wellbeing of its people and hampers our shared regional advancement.

We reiterate our support for the current United nations General Assembly resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

Saint Lucia

[Original: English]
[28 May 2010]

In compliance with international legal obligations, and in compliance with the commitment to the principles of the sovereign equality of states, the Government of Saint Lucia has not promulgated any law, legislation or measure, or taken any other action that would contravene the exercise of sovereignty by a Member State in its lawful interests, or obstruct the freedom of commercial activity, trade or economic cooperation.

The Government of Saint Lucia reiterates the consistent economic, educational, scientific and technical cooperation between Cuba and Saint Lucia in furtherance of socio-economic advancement and sustainability.

Saint Lucia reiterates its position on the extraterritorial application of national legislation and considers it to be contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of states, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among nations.

The Government of Saint Lucia has consistently supported the relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

[Original: English]
[3 May 2010]

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to oppose the extraterritorial application of national legislation with disregard for the sovereignty of States. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines views such actions as contrary to international law and the principles of sovereign equality, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not apply unilateral economic measures as a means of political or economic coercion against other States. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has no laws that in any way restrict the freedom of trade, navigation, economic cooperation or other commercial activity with Cuba.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enjoys very friendly relations with Cuba and continues to engage the Government and people of Cuba in solidarity on a variety of constructive, cooperative and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has consistently and unreservedly voted in favour of the General Assembly resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expresses continued concern with the hardships and human suffering caused by the ongoing promulgation of the embargo against Cuba, despite the overwhelming international support for multiple resolutions that call for an end to this blockade.

Samoa

[Original: English]
[25 May 2010]

The Government of Samoa, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, affirms that it has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures that affect the sovereignty of other States.

San Marino

[Original: English]
[10 May 2010]

San Marino has always and generally been against any imposition of any embargo and is therefore against the imposition of the unilateral embargo against Cuba, as a means of pressure, and because of the serious repercussions on the population.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: English]
[7 June 2010]

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution with an emphasis on the need to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States and the non-interference in their internal affairs; as well as the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Senegal

[Original: English]
[13 May 2010]

The Government of Senegal has neither promulgated nor applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 64/6.

The Government of Senegal attaches great importance to the full respect of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and its obligations under international law.

Serbia

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

Reaffirming its fundamental commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, the Government of the Republic of Serbia has neither promulgated nor applied laws, regulations, measures and acts that have an extraterritorial effect or affect the sovereignty of any other United Nations Member State, as stipulated in the Preamble to United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/6.

The Republic of Serbia has consistently supported the afore-mentioned resolution in the General Assembly and voted in its favour. In sharing the expressed desire of the overwhelming majority of the United Nations Member States, the Republic of Serbia calls for an end to economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Seychelles

[Original: English]
[26 April 2010]

The Government of Seychelles fully endorses the content of resolution 64/6; and subsequently it does not have, nor does it apply, any laws or measures which may in any manner or form constitute or contribute to an imposition of economic, commercial or financial blockade against Cuba.

Furthermore, the Government of Seychelles is of the view that legislation whose implementation entails measures or regulations having extraterritorial effects are inconsistent with generally recognized principles of international law.

Sierra Leone

[Original: English]
[14 May 2010]

Consistent with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, Sierra Leone has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 64/6.

Sierra Leone supported the resolution and is convinced that the lifting of discriminatory trade practices and extraterritorial application of domestic laws would not only help to alleviate the socio-economic conditions of the Cuban people, but also promote dialogue, good neighbourliness and cooperation among States.

Solomon Islands

[Original: English]
[26 April 2010]

Solomon Islands remains saddened to see remnants of the cold war persist in this day and age. The United States of America's economic, commercial and financial embargo on the Government and people of Cuba continues to place the children and people of Cuba in a difficult situation. Solomon Islands call for the unconditional lifting of the blockade within the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, international law and in the name of the people of the world.

Solomon Islands acknowledges the spirit, resilience and generosity of the Government and people of Cuba in educating, sheltering and clothing international children from a multitude of States studying there despite the imposed hardship.

Somalia

[Original: English]
[9 July 2010]

Somalia has no laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the present resolution, in conformity with obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.

South Africa

[Original: English]
[4 June 2010]

South Africa has repeatedly joined the majority of countries in expressing its disagreement and opposition to all aspects of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

South Africa views the continued imposition of this embargo as a flagrant violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs.

The international community has consistently rejected the embargo against Cuba. In 2009, the United Nations recorded a vote of 187-3 against this embargo. The vote is a clear indication that the time has come for it to be lifted. The untold suffering on the Cuban civilian population, who suffer the brunt of this injustice, needs to end.

Cuba's outstanding work in the areas of health, education and biotechnology in Africa and the underdeveloped world in particular and the world in general, is recognised by the international community.

The embargo stifles this outstanding contribution to economic and social development, as well as the betterment of the lives of the poor.

South Africa continues to recognise the role that Cuba played in its liberation struggle; and the two countries have maintained longstanding relations, which are continuing to expand through increased cooperation on a wide range of issues-including economic, commercial and financial collaboration.

The South Africa-Cuba Joint Consultative Mechanism and the South Africa-Cuba Joint Bilateral Commission continue to be platforms for expression of our strong bilateral relations. South African Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim co-chaired the 7th Joint Consultative Mechanism Meeting in Havana on 23 and 24 June 2009 together with his Cuban counterpart, Deputy Minister Marcos Rodriquez. Additionally, the Sixth South Africa-Cuba Joint Bilateral Commission was held in Havana, Cuba on 1st to 2nd December 2009. The 7th Joint Bilateral Commission will be held in South Africa in 2011 and has only been postponed due South Africa's hosting of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup in the same month.

Through these two cooperative mechanisms, the Governments of South Africa and Cuba strive to expand the already sound relations in various areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Cuba, through the bilateral co-operation projects within the context of the Joint Bilateral Commission, is greatly assisting South Africa in addressing its skills shortage problems through the provision of professional workers and trainers in a myriad of identified areas.

In April 2010 Cuba hosted the South Africa's Minister of Communications, Siphiwe Nyanda, to formalise cooperation in the field of information and communications technology. On 17 to 21 May 2010 officials from the Department of Environmental Affairs undertook a visit to Cuba to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of environment. In addition, several high-level delegations, led by Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Directors-General have been undertaken during the past years with the view to further strengthening the bilateral relations.

In the multilateral sphere, South Africa and Cuba continue to cooperate within the various organisations and share complimentary views on many issues, such as the reform of the United Nations and the promotion of the Agenda of the South.

Sri Lanka

[Original: English]
[4 June 2010]

Sri Lanka does not approve of the use of unilateral economic measures against any country that are inconsistent with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. Sri Lanka believes that implementation of such measures impede the rule of law and transparency of international trade and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Sri Lanka has not promulgated any laws and measures referred to in the preamble of Resolution 64/6 entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

Sri Lanka has continuously supported the adoption of this resolution at the United Nations General Assembly and taken the position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba needs to be ended.

Sudan

[Original: English]
[24 May 2010]

General Assembly resolution 64/6 was a very important resolution which the Sudan fully supported. The Sudan called for an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba in its statement before the General Assembly.

The Government of the Sudan pursues a policy of full respect for international law and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. Consistent with its principled stand, the Sudan opposes the imposition of sanctions on developing countries because of their devastating impact on the efforts of those countries to achieve sustainable development and because they constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

In that regard, the delegation of the Sudan participates every year in the debate of the General Assembly on the agenda item and votes with the majority of member States, in favour of the General Assembly resolutions prohibiting the imposition of such unilateral measures and sanctions. The Government of the Sudan reaffirms that it does not promulgate or apply any laws or measures that could, by being applied outside its own national borders, affect the sovereignty of any State. The Government of the Sudan calls for the repeal of laws that impose such measures.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Sudan opposes that economic and commercial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, which has caused great damage and suffering to the Cuban people and violated their legitimate rights and interests. The embargo constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and shows disregard for their lofty and noble principles.

The Sudan itself continues to suffer from the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on it by the United States since November 1997. Such unilateral sanctions are in violation of the legitimate right of the Sudan and Cuba and all developing countries and their people to choose their own political, economic and social system that fully responds to their aspirations.

Since the adoption of this General Assembly resolution, the Government of the Sudan has put the issue in the forefront of the multilateral system with a view to mobilizing support for the elimination of all forms of unilateral coercive economic measures on developing countries.

The Sudan is increasingly promoting its bilateral relations with Cuba. In this regard, the Sudan-Cuba Joint Ministerial Commission was convened on 30 May and 1 June 2007 in Havana; the Sudan's delegation was headed by the Minister of International Cooperation and included other high-ranking officials. The Joint Ministerial Commission is the forum for cooperation between the two countries all sectors. As means of fostering bilateral ties and combating the negative effects of the embargo, the Joint Ministerial Commission is expected to enhance and consolidate relations between the Sudan and Cuba in all fields.

A step forward in bilateral relations between the two countries was taken when the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations was accredited as Ambassador to Cuba in December 2007. Furthermore, the bilateral relations between the two countries have been strengthened by visits exchanged by senior officials in both countries.

The Sudan participated at ministerial level in the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Havana from 27 to 30 April 2009 and called in its statement for an immediate end to the embargo against Cuba. In its bilateral meeting with Cuban officials, the Sudan reiterated its commitment to enhancing bilateral relations with Cuba in all fields.

Suriname

[Original: English]
[18 May 2010]

The Republic of Suriname remains committed to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to upholding the principles of international law. In this regard, the unilateral enforcement of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba is contrary to the United Nations Charter and international law.

Against the background of the extra burden caused by the current global economic and financial crisis, Suriname reiterates its call for ending this embargo.

Swaziland

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

The Kingdom of Swaziland continues to support all efforts aimed at ending the blockade against Cuba and is highly encouraged by the fact that the United Nations General Assembly has passed 16 resolutions to date since 1992 in favour of lifting the said blockade.

Once again the Secretary-General has been requested to submit a report at the General Assembly's sixty-second session on the implementation of the latest resolution 64/6 entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba".

It is therefore our fervent hope that the Cuban people will be able to rely on the support of the international community in their legitimate demand that the blockade imposed on them by the United States of America be lifted and that Cuba

will enjoy all the freedoms, rights and privileges enjoyed by all sovereign nation states without any hindrance.

The Kingdom of Swaziland views the continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba as a violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. In addition to being unilateral and contrary to the United Nations Charter, and to the principle of good neighbourliness, the embargo has caused huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. The blockade has not only caused incalculable suffering to the people of Cuba but also undermines the legitimate economic interests of third countries.

The Kingdom of Swaziland opposes the extraterritorial application of unilateral measures that undermine the sovereignty of States and violate international law, freedom of trade and navigation, and the rules of the international trading system.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: English and Arabic]
[1 June 2010]

Proceeding from its position of principle with respect to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 64/6, which emphasizes the need for compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirms the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation. In the resolution, the Assembly also calls upon States to take the necessary measures to put an end as soon as possible to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba for more than three decades.

In this regard, the Syrian Arab Republic recalls the communiqué of the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at their Conference, held in Sharm el Sheikh from 11 to 16 July 2009, in which they called upon the United States to put an end to the embargo against Cuba, which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principle of neighbourliness, is causing huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba.

The Heads of State or Government once again urged strict compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and expressed deep concern over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the embargo against Cuba and over the continuous new legislative measures geared to intensifying it.

We also refer to the Declaration adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77 and China, held in Doha, in which the participants categorically rejected laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, and expressed grave concern over the impact of economic sanctions on the development capacity of the targeted countries. The Summit also adopted a special appeal from all the leaders of the developing countries for the immediate lifting of this embargo, given that it is causing the Cuban people enormous material

losses and inflicting huge economic damage, in addition to being a unilateral measure and in contravention of the Charter, international law and the principle of good-neighbourliness.

The international community has frequently stated that it rejects the maintenance of the sanctions unilaterally imposed on Cuba and the Helms-Burton Act, which exceeds the jurisdiction of national legislation and encroaches on the sovereignty of other States that deal with Cuba. This is incompatible with the principle of the sovereign equality of States. Experience has shown that, for the most part, sanctions regimes have caused enormous material damage and major economic losses for the civilian inhabitants of the countries targeted.

Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic calls for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. This would help to create a positive climate in international relations and enhance the role of international legitimacy in safeguarding the principle of the sovereign equality of States.

Tajikistan

[Original: English]
[22 June 2010]

The Government of Tajikistan reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 64/6. Tajikistan is committed to the principles of international law and supports the fundamental rights of nations to freely choose their own ways of development. Taking into account, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade, Tajikistan believes that such economic, commercial and financial measures against Cuba continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and hamper the efforts of the Government of Cuba to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Furthermore, given that the international community is facing major challenges such as the global financial and economic crisis and the resulting increase in poverty, unemployment and malnutrition, the imposition of embargoes and sanctions will be more unjustifiable than ever and deserve appropriate reactions at the global level.

Such actions are in contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among States.

Tajikistan enjoys friendly diplomatic and economic relations with Cuba. Tajikistan will continue to undertake further measures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with Cuba.

Thailand

[Original: English]
[13 May 2010]

In principle, Thailand does not support the imposition by one country of its national law on another country, which in effect compels a third country to comply with that law. In Thailand's view, such an act would be contrary to the basic principles of international law as well as the United Nations Charter.

Thailand has maintained no such legal provision or domestic measures.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

[Original: English]
[9 July 2010]

The Republic of Macedonia fully implements the resolution 64/6.

Timor-Leste

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

The Government of Timor-Leste has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures referred to in General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Timor-Leste is against the unilateral imposition of economic, commercial and financial embargoes. The Government of Timor-Leste reiterates its long standing opposition to the extraterritorial application of national legislation and considers it contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence.

The Government of Timor-Leste remains committed to the necessity of an immediate end to all sanctions imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. We believe that the measures imposed against Cuba have serious negative implications for the overall development and well being of the Cuban population.

The maintenance of these unilateral measures is contrary to the spirit of dialogue and cooperation that should prevail in international relations.

Timor-Leste strongly supports General Assembly resolution 64/6 and calls for an immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo against Cuba, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

Togo

[Original: French]
[25 May 2010]

In keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Togo has always strived to promote respect for the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States, and for non-intervention and non-interference in their

internal affairs. In the same way, our country unreservedly supports the principle of free trade and navigation. Such principles are enshrined in numerous international legal instruments.

Togo therefore systematically rejects the use of any unilateral coercive measures to exert pressure on States. For that reason, Togo has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures aimed at curtailing the sovereignty of other States, or the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction.

Togo has also consistently supported the actions of the Cuban Government aimed at ending the embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America.

Tonga

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

The Kingdom of Tonga adheres fully to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and accepted under international law, in particular, the principles of sovereign equality of States, non intervention and non interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Thus, the Kingdom of Tonga has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 64/6. The Kingdom of Tonga maintains friendly and diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]
[3 June 2010]

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago does not apply unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against other countries.

Tunisia

[Original: French]
[4 May 2010]

Tunisia applies no unilateral laws or measures with extraterritorial effect.

Turkey

[Original: English]
[11 May 2010]

Turkey does not have any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 64/6 and reaffirms its adherence to the principles of trade and

navigation in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The Government of Turkey maintains its stance that differences and problems between States should be settled through dialogue and negotiations.

Turkmenistan

[Original: English]
[16 April 2010]

Turkmenistan supported the adoption of resolution 64/6 and Turkmenistan's national legislation contains no provisions on limitation of freedom of trade and navigation.

Tuvalu

[Original: English]
[23 June 2010]

The Government of Tuvalu reiterates its position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba runs counter to the need for promoting dialogue and ensuring the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among nations. Such discriminatory trade practices continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and to hamper the efforts of the Cuban Government to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The Government of Tuvalu has not promulgated or applied laws and measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial and financial relations between Tuvalu and the Republic of Cuba.

Furthermore, the Government of Tuvalu is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such restrictive trade measures and in this respect, supports the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba in line with the unequivocal and continued request of the United Nations' Member States.

Uganda

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

Uganda has normal trading relations with Cuba and does not honour the embargo.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[19 May 2010]

Ukraine does not have any legislation or regulations whose extraterritorial effects could affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction or the freedom of trade and international navigation.

Similarly, the Government of Ukraine does not accept the application of measures of the kind referred to above and adheres, in its relations with other countries, to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the freedom of trade and navigation.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: English]
[21 June 2010]

The Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates would like to inform that, according to a letter received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there are trade relations between the United Arab Emirates and Cuba, the value of which was 18,500,560 dirhams in 2008 and 12,284,255 dirhams in 2009. Furthermore, the Government of the United Arab Emirates declares that it is not related to the economic embargo imposed by the United States of America political decision.

United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]
[24 May 2010]

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania expresses once again its solidarity with the like-minded Member States in denouncing the application of unilateral trade measures against Cuba, which have extraterritorial effects on peoples and economies of other States. The United Republic of Tanzania perceives these unilateral measures as contrary to the spirit of multilateralism and to the Charter of the United Nations.

The United Republic of Tanzania enjoys healthy and sound relations with the people and Government of Cuba and cooperates with them in various social and economic endeavours, notably capacity-building in health and education. The United Republic of Tanzania believes that cooperation between the two countries would expand if the unilaterally imposed blockades were lifted and is confident that there is room for discussion between the two parties.

Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2010]

The Eastern Republic of Uruguay does not recognize in its legislation the extraterritorial application of domestic laws of other States. It holds the view that, in addition to violating generally accepted principles of international law, this practice is a form of pressure that impedes, rather than promotes, dialogue. Uruguay maintains a foreign policy favourable to free trade and navigation, in accordance with the relevant multilateral arrangements.

In that context, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has repeatedly denounced the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba and its effects on the Cuban people, as a result of unilateral coercive measures that affect free trade and the transparent practice of international commerce.

Accordingly, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has neither promulgated nor applied any laws, decrees or measures of the kind referred to in United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/6.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 2010]

In accordance with the constitutional principles that underpin its actions in the community of nations, namely humanism, cooperation and solidarity among peoples, staunch in its commitment to peace, and guided by its unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not and will not apply unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects that violate the sovereign rights and political independence of other States, as well as the human rights of their people.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its categorical rejection of the application of unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects because, in its opinion, they violate the norms and principles of international law, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments, and because they violate free trade and navigation and the norms of the international trading system.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has strongly supported the 18 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this subject and the declarations made in other political forums, repudiating this type of hostile action, which undermines peaceful coexistence between nations and international legality.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela again calls on the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, to end the merciless economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against the fraternal people of Cuba by the United States. Such a decision would demonstrate that country's commitment to international legality and its unconditional respect for the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

The policy of confrontation promoted and implemented by the United States for more than 40 years has affected the well-being of the citizens of that Caribbean nation, whose human rights have been violated as a result of the illegal unilateral measures. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela demands that the United States comply strictly with General Assembly resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7 and 64/6.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its concern at the strengthening of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States, an action that in no way contributes to the necessary climate of dialogue and cooperation that should prevail in international relations among sovereign States in conformity with the spirit and purpose of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970 (resolution 2625 (XXV), annex).

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela endorses the repeated declarations made by, inter alia, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Rio Group and the European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Summit of Heads of State and Government, in repudiation of the application of unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects, which it considers to be contrary to dialogue and cooperation as genuine expressions of multilateralism. In this context, the Venezuelan Government denounces the application of the extraterritorial provisions of the Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts, which have caused serious additional harm to the Cuban economy over the past two decades in its economic relations with third countries and with the subsidiaries of United States firms.

In this context, it should be pointed out that, at the ninth Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America and the Peoples' Trade Agreement, held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 19 April 2009, the Heads of State and Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela demanded once again that the United States Government should immediately and unconditionally lift the economic embargo against Cuba, as universally urged by the international community and in particular by the peoples and Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean.

As stated, the maintenance of these unilateral measures is contrary to the spirit of dialogue and cooperation that should prevail in international relations, since their application breaches the norms and principles of international law.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is convinced that the international community must not let up in its efforts to end the practice of applying unilateral coercive measures that seek to curtail the sovereign right of States to determine, in keeping with the right of self-determination, their own political and social model consistent with the actual situation in their respective country and the particular requirements of their people.

To this end, our country considers that peoples should under no circumstances be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development.

Lastly, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela renews its firm commitment to unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law and therefore appeals again to the Government of the United States of America to comply with the 18 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Viet Nam

[Original: English]
[4 May 2010]

The United States policy of blockade and embargo against Cuba over the past decades represents a violation of international laws in general and free trade law in particular, and an infringement of fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, contravening the common desire of nations around the world to build sound and equal international relations, regardless of their political systems and with respect for each nation's rights to choose its own path of development.

The General Assembly has for many consecutive years adopted by an overwhelming majority resolutions demanding that the United States end its economic, trade and financial blockade and embargo policies and laws against Cuba, the most recent of which is 64/6 of 2009, adopted with 187 votes in favour.

It is the view of Viet Nam that the differences between the United States and Cuba should be solved through dialogue and negotiation, in a spirit of mutual respect, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Viet Nam reaffirms its strong support for the related General Assembly resolutions and believes that the United Nations will soon produce concrete initiatives and measures to rapidly implement the adopted resolutions in order to put an immediate end to the blockade and embargo against Cuba.

Once again, Viet Nam confirms its friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the Cuban people and resolves to do its utmost with other peace-, freedom- and justice-loving peoples in the world to help the Cuban people overcome the consequences of the immoral and illegal blockade and embargo policy.

Yemen

[Original: Arabic]
[14 June 2010]

In connection with General Assembly resolution 64/6, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the Republic of Yemen wishes to emphasize its excellent relations with Cuba in many spheres, particularly economic and commercial sectors. Yemen wishes to strengthen and develop the bilateral relations which exist between the two friendly countries. In the light of the above, the Republic of Yemen underlines the need to lift the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Zambia

[Original: English]
[24 May 2010]

The Mission wishes to inform that the Government of the Republic of Zambia reaffirms, once again this year, its continued objection to the unilateral coercive measures directed at any Member State of the United Nations which have the impact of violating the Charter of the United Nations, and international law, in general. Against this background, the continued implementation of unilateral trade measures against Cuba adversely affects the social and economic well-being of the people of Cuba.

As the economic, cultural and trade embargo has extraterritorial implications on third countries, Zambia strongly supports the efforts of the United Nations to have the embargo immediately lifted without conditions so that the people of Cuba can freely exercise their right to self-determination without inference from external powers. It is against this background that Zambia voted in favour of resolution 64/6.

Having considered this matter over the years, the Zambian Government is even more convinced that the embargo against Cuba is unjustifiable and therefore, a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and should be opposed by all peace-loving nations. Accordingly, the Zambian delegation will support the work of the United Nations General Assembly to request that the embargo be lifted without further delay.

Zimbabwe

[Original: English]
[24 May 2010]

Zimbabwe reiterates its firm commitment and adherence to the fundamental principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Zimbabwe expresses its deep concern over the huge economic damages and untold sufferings inflicted against Cuba as a result of the illegal economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against it by the United States of America. The embargo runs counter to the fundamental principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and relevant resolutions of the United Nations. Furthermore, the embargo is provocative, extremely discriminatory in nature and has undermined the principles of sovereign equality of States, fundamental human rights and the spirit of peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness among states.

Zimbabwe has consistently advocated for the revocation of laws and measures with extraterritorial application that have been applied and are being applied unilaterally against Member States. We condemn the application of unilateral economic measures by any country against another in order to achieve certain political objectives. The extension of territorial jurisdiction to other countries by the United States is contrary to the principle of national sovereignty and non-interference in States' internal affairs recognized under international law. The policy of the United States not only undermines the Cuban people's right to

development but also contradicts the freedom of trade and navigation and contravenes the provisions of WTO, of which the United States is a member.

As a current victim of domestic laws and legislation with extraterritorial impact, Zimbabwe fully understands the need to end the unilateral and illegal economic embargo on Cuba. Zimbabwe therefore firmly stands by the heroic people of Cuba in their fight against that illegal embargo. Zimbabwe therefore joins other countries in calling upon the United States to put an immediate end to its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

[Original: English]
[16 July 2010]

Cuba's economic performance and the current international financial crisis

After expanding at an average annual rate close to 10 per cent in 2005-07, Cuba's real gross domestic product (GDP) increased by only 4.1 per cent in 2008, owing to the impact of the acute rise in food and oil prices in the international markets. The continuous deterioration in Cuba's economic outlook during 2009 led to increasingly reduced goals in the policy target set for its economic expansion; projections were persistently revised downwards. In the end, the economy again lost momentum in 2009 and the country's real GDP expanded by only 1.4 per cent as the international financial crisis brought about a decline in its export markets, a reduction in the price of nickel, a slowdown in foreign remittances and foreign direct investment, and an acute restriction in its access to credit and capital from abroad.

The economic outlook has not been helped by the fact that the reforms in the agricultural sector — in the context of a policy shift to increase overall productivity — have yet to be translated into a significantly higher output of tradable goods. Indeed, some important changes have been introduced in the agricultural sector, including an improvement in prices paid to farmers by the State, a redistribution of land not fully utilized, and a more flexible approach to the introduction of certain market mechanisms in the acquisition of supplies by private farmers. Agricultural output began to grow in 2009, but at a timid pace, although, in 2009, sugar production reached its lowest level in decades. The reforms in the urban transportation system, which allow more room to private business and the arrival of new buses from China and the Russian Federation, are beginning to fill the supply gap in the transportation sector.

In 2009, inflation in Cuba was practically null for the second consecutive year, with its consumer price index remaining on average at virtually the same level as in 2008. Notwithstanding scant economic growth and the effects of the international financial crisis, in 2009, the open unemployment rate reached 1.7 per cent, up from 1.6 per cent registered in 2008.

There are a number of new and old challenges that the Cuban economy — and the Cuban population — must meet in 2010. One of them is the exclusion of some goods from the food ration, and how this will affect, on the one hand, households' living standards and, on the other hand, domestic inflation. Another challenge is the increasing pressure on the social security system — and fiscal balance — created by the ageing Cuban population. An additional challenge is the need to develop the domestic financial system, aimed at boosting savings and financial intermediation and, to a certain extent, funding the fiscal deficit. Underneath these challenges lies a need to keep moving forward with an agenda of structural reforms to guarantee a dynamic insertion into global markets consistent with a long-term path of robust economic expansion, while preserving the achievements and social conquests of the Cuban social security system with a sustainable fiscal position.

The effects of the United States embargo on Cuba

More than four decades have elapsed since the Government of the United States of America imposed an embargo on Cuba. As is well known, the embargo restricts United States enterprises from conducting business with Cuban partners or interests. In particular, it also places severe limitations on any bank that has subsidiaries in the United States to engage in any type of financial intermediation operation with Cuban interests. Although trade in some goods is permitted, Cuba's purchases must be made in cash, as credit is not allowed. In place since the early 1960s, it is by now the longest-lasting trade embargo in modern history.

The embargo has had major effects on the Cuban economy and population. It has caused severe distortions in the dynamics of the country's domestic and foreign investment, its pattern of consumption and its mode of insertion into the global economy through tourism, foreign trade and financial markets. All of these have exacted major costs on the population, including the social costs imposed on Cuban-American families who, until very recently, were banned from visiting their relatives.

The embargo has lowered Cuba's investment potential by blocking its imports of machinery and equipment, affecting productive processes in numerous branches of economic activity. At the same time, it has raised major obstacles to Cuba's access to key export and financial markets. By doing so, it has had an adverse dual impact on Cuba's long-term economic growth: on the one hand, by limiting its access to imported capital goods, it has reduced Cuba's investment ratio and thus its rate of potential long-term growth; on the other hand, by limiting its foreign trade and capital inflows and foreign investment, it has made more binding the balance-of-payments constraint on Cuba's long-term economic growth.

Although Cuba has been promoting the production and exports of professional services and aiming its international integration strategy at making use of its competitive advantages regarding other Caribbean competitors in sectors such as health, engineering, biotechnology, software, studies and projects, the embargo's restriction on its acquisition and transfer of technology, inputs and equipment from abroad and the financing restrictions have negatively impacted its technological catching-up processes and productivity. Furthermore, by restricting processes in sectors producing foodstuffs, the embargo may threaten Cuba's food security. Such exogenous effects are important, as they compound the challenges created by the

need for structural reforms of the production structure, particularly in agriculture, which is a strategically important sector.

Cuban authorities estimate at more than $90 billion the cumulative direct damages of the embargo. These damages were exacerbated by the additional sanctions imposed during the previous United States administrations on private individuals and businesses, which intensified the scale and widened the scope of the embargo. To the extent that it restrains Cuba's imports of food and medicine, the embargo has a non-negligible impact on health, nutrition and overall life conditions of the Cuban population. These effects have demanded strengthened policy responses from the Cuban authorities and support from the international community. By forcing Cuba to pay cash or to buy foodstuff and medical supplies from far abroad, the embargo imposes higher costs on the country's acquisition of such supplies and forces longer delays in their delivery. In this sense, the embargo is a compounding straining factor for Cuba in its aim to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The new administration in the United States has eased travel restrictions for Cuban-Americans visiting their relatives on the island and has increased the legally authorized limit on family remittances, as well as the amount and diversity of goods that may be sent to Cuba in the form of donations or unrequited transfers.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

Overall situation: effects of the embargo on the sectors of food security, as well as on agriculture, fisheries and the food industry

The main changes since the last reporting period can be summarized as follows:

(a) In 2009, food production recovered substantially compared to the 2008 crop that was severely affected by several powerful hurricanes. Cereal production in 2009 is estimated at 700,000 tons, about 15 per cent above the 2008 output and 10 per cent higher than the average of the previous five years;

(b) Paddy production in 2009 is provisionally estimated at 500,000 tons, 15 per cent above the level of the previous year. However, this volume is still well below the level achieved in 2002 and 2003 (around 700,000 tons). Similarly, production of maize increased by 16 per cent from the past season to 360,000 tons. Imported volumes of cereals have remained steady in recent years, around 2 million tons, and in 2009/10 they are expected to cover three quarters of the country's domestic utilization;

(c) In 2008-2009, economic losses in the agricultural sector were over $149 million.

The main effects of the embargo on agriculture, fisheries, livestock and the food industry should continue to be viewed from the following different perspectives:

(a) The problems brought about by the impossibility of taking full advantage of the export potential (i.e. coffee, honey, tobacco, live lobsters and aquaculture products) to the nearest market (the United States). This has implied major losses, since it has been necessary to sell to markets located further away with the resultant higher marketing and distribution costs. Payment of additional costs negatively affects the country's capacity to purchase basic products, especially food. Moreover, trade often leads to a transfer of know-how and scientific collaboration. Cubans are not benefiting from these transfers;

(b) The increase in costs for inputs needed for agricultural, fisheries and livestock production (fuel, spare parts for agricultural machinery, animal feeds, phyto- and zoo-sanitary products and fertilizers, as well as top technological products such as herbicides, low toxicity insecticides, and other highly effective pesticides or veterinary pharmaceuticals, disease diagnostic kits which in many cases are only produced by United States firms). This directly increases the production costs, resulting in a decreased profitability and a lower capacity to satisfy the local demand. In general, if equipment were purchased from the United States the cost of equipment imports would decrease by at least 20 per cent;

(c) A particular case is the limitations for purchase of seeds, due to the restrictions faced by seed companies to doing business with Cuba. In 2007, the Ministry of Agriculture alone imported 27.6 thousand tons of potato seed, basically from Canada (10.4 thousand) and Europe (17.2 thousand). A total of 67.3 tons of vegetable seeds was also imported from Europe, Japan and the Middle East, with important implications on freight costs. The Government estimates that if these seeds could be purchased in the United States, Cuba could save approximately $872 million, which could be used to purchase more seeds.

The global food and financial crises have contributed to a deterioration of the economic situation worldwide, but in the case of Cuba, the negative effects are exacerbated because of the embargo. The embargo has very negative implications for Cuba's balance of trade and foreign exchange earnings, as well as for the country's volume of production. The value of agricultural products imported increased from $808.6 million in 1999 to $1.7 billion in 2007. At the same time, exports registered a downward trend, declining from $785.5 million in 1999 to $515 million in 2007. Over the same period, the negative agricultural trade balance increased from $23.1 million in 1999 to $1.3 billion in 2007. The importation of food products for human consumption, particularly those destined to meet social programmes, is affected by the embargo, as restrictions limit their quantity and quality, thus having a direct effect on the food security of the vulnerable segments of the population.

An additional problem resulting from the embargo relates to the possibility for Cuba to access external multilateral financing for development programmes in agriculture and rural development in general, and on the related availability of resources for rehabilitating and modernizing agricultural equipment and infrastructure. However, the United States postponed for six months, starting in August 2009, a regulation that suspends cases being brought against Cuba by citizens of the United States for properties nationalized on the island, which is contemplated in title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (Helms-Burton Act).

Effects of the embargo on selected agricultural commodities

Cereals

Sowing of 2010 main season rice crop was completed in February and early estimates indicate an increase in the area planted of approximately 6 per cent. Planting of the maize crop is under way with seasonal rains expected to bring needed relief to the protracted water shortage of recent months. Coarse grains cultivated area is expected to increase as a result of government measures aimed at reducing the cost of the food import bill.

Cereal production in 2009 is estimated at 700,000 tons, about 15 per cent above the 2008 output and 10 per cent higher than the average of the previous five years. However, despite the good harvest in 2009, the country is still highly dependent on imports. Current forecasts indicate import levels of 540,000 tons of rice (to be imported in 2010); 620,000 tons of coarse grains (to be imported in 2009/10 (July/June)); and wheat imports projected to reach about 800,000 tons. Overall, cereal imports account for more than 70 per cent of domestic utilization. In general, despite the Government's effort to increase domestic food production through the land delivery process initiated in 2009 as well as the programme for urban and suburban agriculture (which will assign more than 1.5 million unproductive hectares to farmers as usufructuaries), the difficulty in procuring farming tools, supplies and other inputs is constraining the use of land to its full capacity.

Although in the past Cuba sourced much of its grain requirements from the European Union, the easing of sanctions by the United States since 2001 has resulted in larger purchases from the United States where, in the 2008/09 marketing season, Cuba sourced almost all its maize imports and approximately 50 per cent of its wheat imports. In the case of rice, the embargo has had the effect of fostering a shift of Cuba towards suppliers other than the United States, in particular, to Viet Nam. Since the implementation of the embargo Cuba's state trading agency, Alimport, has established close links with Vinafood, the Viet Nam state rice-exporting agency. Virtually no rice has been sold by the United States to Cuba in the past few years. In recent months, the United States rice sector has again attempted to change the United States legislation, by supporting, before the House Agriculture Committee the Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act (resolution HR 4645), a measure that would remove obstacles to United States agricultural sales to Cuba, in addition to opening travel by United States citizens to Cuba. By doing so, the United States rice industry hopes to revitalize rice exports to the island nation. Rice imports by Cuba currently amount to more than 500,000 tons.

Oilseeds

The oil crop production in Cuba is not significant and, as a result, the country depends almost entirely on imports to supply its vegetable oil and meal needs. Commodities dominating imports are soybeans, soy oil and soy meal. Recently, Brazil started lending assistance to Cuba with regard to the cultivation of adapted, high-yielding varieties on the island. When the United States embargo came into effect, Brazil and Argentina became the main suppliers of soybeans and derived products. Both Mexico and Canada have, on occasion, shipped (small) volumes to Cuba. Origins of non-soybean oils and meals imported by Cuba include Argentina, Canada, China, Mexico and the European Union. In 2002, imports of soybeans and

derived products from the United States resumed, largely replacing purchases from other regions. However, the United States measure introduced in 2005 is considered to keep imports from that country below the level that could otherwise be achieved.

Raw sugar

Raw sugar production, as the main agricultural export and traditionally one of the main sources of foreign exchange, reached a record low of 1.2 million metric tons in 2007, due to several factors, including adverse weather conditions, which resulted in low yields and hampered field work, and reductions in the area planted and the production capacity of processing plants. The Government estimates that 182 thousand metric tons of the 2007 crop could not be harvested due to lack of financial resources, which caused a loss of $40 million. Harvest of the 2008 sugar cane is virtually complete and tentative estimates point to a recovery in production to 1.5 million tons. These production levels, however, remain substantially lower than historical averages, particularly as output at 2.2 million tons was regarded as a 70-year low in 2004. A slight recovery in the sector between last year and the current marketing year signals a marginal reversal of the trend towards production declines over the past 15 years; however the sector has continued to struggle since 2003, when a major restructuring of the milling sector closed 70 of the 160 mills. Export volumes of centrifugal raw sugar have fallen by more than 75 per cent since the sector was restructured — from 2.9 million tons in 1999 to 798,000 tons in 2007. Nearly 25 per cent of the 700,000 tons of sugar consumed in Cuba is imported. The Governments of Cuba and Venezuela signed a framework agreement in March 2007 to establish 11 ethanol plants in Venezuela that would import Cuban sugar as feedstock. Plans are under way, with the financial support of the Government of Venezuela, to rehabilitate the sugar sector in Cuba in order to initially supply at least four of the planned facilities.

Poultry and eggs

United States chicken meat exports to Cuba, benefiting from the granting of a poultry exemption in 2001 to the long-standing embargo, soared to record levels. United States shipments to Cuba rose from nil in 2000 to nearly 75,000 tons by 2003, making Cuba the United States' seventh largest export market. United States exports to Cuba are likely to continue to benefit from the soaring demand for chicken, expanding to over 100,000 tons. Chicken consumption in Cuba reached around 160,000 tons in 2008. Additional major suppliers to Cuba include Brazil and Canada. Cuba faces limitations in the development of an internal poultry industry. Restrictions in the access to technologies available in the United States and other countries, as well as to raw materials for balanced rations, prevent the reduction of the import bill. The dependence of the poultry sector on imported feedstock results in the adoption of preventive measures to avoid a collapse in protein supply in case exports of feedstock from the United States is paralysed. The Government, therefore, keeps 3.8 million eggs under refrigeration to guarantee egg supply to the population, at a cost of $5.6 million. The Government estimates the direct cost of the embargo for the poultry industry to be approximately, $53.4 million, excluding the import of inputs.

Dairy products

National milk production of 546,000 tons annually does not cover Cuba's growing domestic demand for dairy products. Over 90 per cent of dairy imports are in milk powder (60,000 tons yearly). Imports are destined mainly for the Government's social programmes. With the easing of some restrictions regarding food imports from the United States in 2000/01, there were occasional shipments of milk powder to Cuba. Following the early payment condition introduced by the United States in 2005, shipments have been lower. In mid-2007, the Government assured a 250 per cent increase in prices paid to milk producers in order to stimulate domestic production and reduce the high bills for milk powder imports (about $300 million annually). The price increases will not signify higher retail prices for consumers, but the current price of cereals and its implications for the prices of imported and locally produced feedstock will make milk and dairy products more expensive.

Fish products

Almost all of Cuba's fish exports consist of high value products, notably frozen shrimp and lobster, which are in strong demand on the international market. The economic crisis had a negative impact on the demand for these products in 2009. However, the embargo prevents access to one of the most important fish and fish product markets and, as a result, Cuba is obliged to export to more distant markets with the resultant higher marketing and distribution costs. On the one hand, export earnings amounted to $87 million in 2007 for a total volume of 7,084 tons (product weight). On the other hand, fish imports consisting mainly of low value fish products, amounted to $53.1 million for a total volume of 35,759 tons (product weight).

Technical assistance by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to Cuba

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to support the Government in promoting rural development and fisheries with emphasis on food security.

During 2008, inter-agency work focused strongly on identifying appropriate resources to support the country's recovery in the aftermath of the natural disasters mentioned above. At the beginning of 2008, a project funded by the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme was approved, allowing for emergency support to be given the recovery of production capacity and to the reduction of producers' vulnerability in the provinces of Las Tunas, Holguín, Guantánamo, Santiago de Cuba and Granma, which were affected by the tropical storm Noel.

In addition, as part of the Inter-agency Action Plan created by the country team, FAO approved two projects under the Central Emergency Revolving Fund for seeds, irrigation machinery and tools purchase in areas affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike, for a total amount of $900,000.

In November 2008, in response to the hurricanes and tropical storms that severely affected the country in August and September 2008, a FAO formulation mission was fielded, funded by the Spanish Agency for Cooperation and Development, to evaluate the damage in the agricultural sector and to design a

strategy for immediate relief and larger rehabilitation. In cooperation with Government technicians, the mission prepared a programme for the recovery of Cuban agriculture, as well as a project proposal for support to the rehabilitation of the agricultural and fisheries sectors affected by 2008 cyclones (provinces of Camagüey, Holguín, Las Tunas and Pinar del Río), for an approximate value of $6,000,000. However, it was only in November 2009, after close scrutiny of the proposal by the national counterparts at high institutional levels and consequent negotiations required with FAO, that the proposal could be submitted to the donor. In December 2009, the Spanish Agency for Cooperation and Development announced its agreement to fund the proposal for approximately $1.5 million. Since then, no decision has been taken by the Cuban authorities as to which component is to receive support. This has hampered the revision of the project to tailor the reduced amount available and its start-up.

In response to these climatic events, funds ($204,000) were also approved by Norway in March 2009 for a two-fold intervention on agriculture and aquaculture. It is only recently that the Cuban authorities agreed on the focus intervention (only on aquaculture). The project document is being finalized by the FAO Fisheries Service for further immediate implementation.

In addition to emergency efforts, the FAO field programme in Cuba is made up of 14 technical cooperation projects, mainly using resources of the Technical Cooperation Programme Facility and TeleFood projects. Through these actions FAO continues to support the country, mainly for the optimization of agriculture and agro-industrial processes to improve the functioning of the food value chain.

For over three years, FAO supervised the project "Enhancing Marketing Efficiency of Artisanal Fisheries in Central America, Mexico and Caribbean" in Cuba — (Playa Florida), that was aimed at improving domestic marketing of fisheries products, financed by the Common Fund for Commodities and executed by INFOPESCA. The project installed an ice plant in the community and carried out several training courses on quality control, fish handling, processing and marketing. The project also prepared a manual on small-scale fisheries control.

In close collaboration with the Government of Cuba and with the financial support of the Spanish Cooperation Agency, FAO has developed the programme "Support to fight anaemia in vulnerable groups in Cuba" jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, as well as the programme "Support to new initiatives of decentralization and production incentives in Cuba", jointly developed with UNDP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

FAO is developing jointly with the Global Environment Facility and Cuban organizations actions in the context of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project. Projects are also being developed within the framework of the support mechanism to national forest programmes, as well as regional projects in the areas of prevention of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, emergency surveillance of the influenza A (H1N1) virus in the pig sector, and food safety, respectively.

Project operations in Cuba continued to be adversely affected by the economic embargo, due to increased costs in the purchase of materials and supplies, as well as

limited access to and availability of agricultural inputs. Taken together, they have had a negative impact on the effectiveness of development resources.

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[10 May 2010]

The assistance activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) directed to all of its member States, including Cuba, are governed by article III/C of its statute, which reads as follows:

> "In carrying out its functions, the Agency shall not make assistance to members subject to any political, economic, military, or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of this Statute".

However, the existing embargo poses certain difficulties to the implementation of the Agency's technical cooperation programme in Cuba, as it is not possible to procure some specialized equipment from United States companies, or on occasions to obtain visas for Cuban nationals to attend IAEA-organized training activities or meetings in the United States. In accordance with the above-mentioned article of its statute, the Agency tries to overcome these difficulties to the extent that it can, for example, by purchasing equipment from other locations at a higher cost and sending Cuban nationals for training in other countries, in order to meet the requirements of the Agency's technical cooperation programme in Cuba.

International Civil Aviation Organization

[Original: English]
[22 June 2010]

The mandate of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is to promote the safe, secure and orderly development of civil aviation in the world. The Organization is not directly involved in the implementation of resolution 64/6, which is directed at States.

Cuba, a contracting State of ICAO, benefits from assistance through the technical cooperation programme and the regular programme of ICAO, both at headquarters and at the ICAO North American, Central American and Caribbean Office in Mexico. In particular, the organization has facilitated the participation of Cuba in all relevant regional technical cooperation projects and is assisting the country to improve its international civil aviation infrastructure through national technical cooperation projects.

The cooperation of ICAO with Cuba has expanded considerably in the past decade. There have been a number of requests from the Government of Cuba and its Civil Aviation Authority for the assistance of ICAO in the implementation of technical cooperation projects in the areas of flight safety, airport safety, development of aeronautical infrastructure, strengthening of the civil aviation authority, human resources development, training programmes at the managerial and technical levels, and modernization of technology.

As a result of the embargo, numerous difficulties and constraints have been encountered in the management and implementation of ICAO technical cooperation projects in Cuba, in particular with regard to the procurement of an altimeter earlier in 2010. A request for assistance to purchase an urgently needed underwater altimeter from a United States supplier, J.W. Fishers Mfg. Inc., was received from the Instituto de Aeronáutica Civil de Cuba on 16 December 2009. The purpose of the equipment was to provide a new and much needed dimension to the effectiveness and accuracy of search and rescue standards. The request was forwarded to J.W. Fishers Mfg. Inc., who advised that United States law prohibited it from selling equipment that would be shipped to Cuba.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

[Original: English]
[11 May 2010]

IFAD maintains an open dialogue with the Government of Cuba, through its representatives in Italy, on all matters pertaining to rural development, agricultural production and food security in the country. Cuba also participates in the IFAD Governing Council as a member State. During past years, several high-level missions were fielded to Cuba for the purpose of reintegrating Cuba into the regular lending and programme of work of IFAD. In addition, IFAD keeps a fluid dialogue and cooperates with FAO and other United Nations agencies present in the country.

The December 2009 Executive Board discussed the issue of Cuba's arrears. It was agreed that the parameters of a settlement plan that includes currency of repayment, time frame and potential support from bilateral donor member States would be developed. It is expected that a settlement plan will be submitted for the approval of the Executive Board in 2010, which may include the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund for the receipt of support from member States.

International Labour Organization

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

As conveyed in previous years, Cuba is treated in the same way as any other member State of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and actively participates in the Annual International Labour Conference and other bodies of ILO.

The ILO Office in Mexico continues its technical cooperation programme on employment and decent work issues in Cuba. During the biennium 2010-2011, ILO is providing technical assistance in the following three substantive areas:

(a) Promotion of productivity, income generation and decent work, through human resource development based on labour competencies, particularly in strategic industries (sugar, tourism);

(b) Consolidation of national social security programmes and policies, with special emphasis on the reduction of work-related accidents and diseases in high-risk sectors (construction, agriculture, electricity), through training and effective prevention systems;

(c) Strengthening of labour administration and social dialogue, specifically for effective monitoring of fundamental principles and rights at work.

ILO reiterates its view that the United Nations is the appropriate forum to address questions related to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

International Maritime Organization

[Original: English]
[4 June 2010]

As a State member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Cuba benefits from participation in the meetings of IMO bodies and is a recipient of the available technical cooperation programmes (IMO regional programmes "Support to maritime development, Latin America", "Support to maritime development, Caribbean" as well as global programmes as applicable).

IMO maintains collaborative relations with all Latin American States members, including Cuba. Since the early 1980s, IMO has collaborated closely with the Regional Network on Cooperation among Maritime Authorities (ROCRAM) in Latin America, which comprises South America, Cuba, Mexico and Panama.

IMO assistance to Latin America is guided by the maritime strategies of the region, which are revised every five years, and the organization will continue to focus on supporting their implementation. ROCRAM countries have addressed issues such as safety standards and training aspects and also marine environment protection through regional strategies, with numerous training activities organized in cooperation with IMO. In this context, and in pursuance of the decentralization policies adopted by IMO, most of its support is channelled through the network by virtue of a memorandum of understanding signed with the ROCRAM secretariat. Through that instrument, the Network is assigned responsibility for the management and execution of regional technical cooperation activities identified by the respective countries, including Cuba, as priorities in building capacities for the effective implementation and enforcement of IMO global maritime standards.

Cuba also receives technical assistance from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre — Wider Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib), a regional activity centre based in Curação, which aims to assist countries in the Wider Caribbean region to prevent and respond to major pollution incidents in the marine environment.

IMO has not encountered difficulties in delivering any of the activities in the projects mentioned above as a result of the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

International Telecommunication Union

[Original: English]
[22 April 2010]

The concerns of Cuba with respect to interference with its communications continue to receive full consideration by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Two active cases of harmful interference submitted by the Administration of Cuba and which involve transmissions from radio stations based on board an aircraft under the Administration of the United States of America are under consideration by the ITU Radio Regulations Board. Both cases have also been considered by the World Radiocommunication Conference, held in Geneva, from 22 October to 16 November 2007.

The Conference noted that, in spite of repeated requests from the ITU secretariat (Radiocommunication Bureau) to the concerned Administrations to take the necessary actions to eliminate harmful interference, there was no information reported to the Bureau on any improvement of the situation.

The Conference urged the concerned Administrations to fulfil their obligations under the provisions of the Radio Regulations, but nonetheless expressed the view that a broadcasting station operating on board an aircraft and transmitting solely towards the territory of another administration without its consent could not be considered as being in conformity with the Radio Regulations.

After the Conference, and in the light of the regular reports from the Administration of Cuba (received on a weekly basis) of the continuing character of the harmful interference on two frequencies, the Radio Regulations Board continued to encourage the Administrations of the United States and Cuba to cooperate and find a solution. The main challenge is to find technical solutions in accordance with the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations without the use of technologies that have export restrictions to Cuba.

The matter is continuously placed on the agenda of the Radio Regulations Board, and will be considered again at its 54th meeting (5-13 July 2010).

Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system for operational activities for development, Cuba

[Original: English]
[20 May 2010]

The United Nations country team in Cuba has been preparing annual reports on the effects of the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. The embargo has a direct impact on the human development context in Cuba, toughening the effects of the global economic crisis on the island and the economic consequences of the intense 2008 hurricane season. The implementation of the United Nations system's humanitarian and development cooperation in Cuba is also notably affected. During 2009 no significant improvement over the previous period was recorded.

The most significant common limitations posed by the embargo to the work of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in Cuba are presented below.

Purchase of inputs at competitive prices and limitations on import of goods, services and technologies patented in the United States

The embargo prohibits Cuban national companies and foreign companies established in Cuba to purchase products, components or technologies in United States territory. Consequently, despite the United States being the closest, most competitive and most diversified market, alternative more distant markets must be used. This entails higher transportation costs and delays in delivery time, resulting in a reduced capacity in delivering United Nations project results.

Goods, services or technologies produced by the United States or covered by ed States patents or containing any element produced and/or patented by the United States are not available to Cuba. This affects the purchase of inputs such as medicines, medical equipment, fertilizers, food supplements, laboratory equipment, agricultural implements, computers, office supplies, vehicles, electric generators and other basic equipment necessary for development activities and/or project impact. Projects in the fields of emergency, food security, maternity health, HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals are directly affected. The execution of programmes and operations in the work of the United Nations system is further affected by the restrictions on the acquisition of licences for United States-patented computer software. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Cuba can very rarely benefit from global corporate contracts with United States companies. Consequently, the implementation of programmes aimed at monitoring advances in the Millennium Development Goals, monitoring the activities and impact of natural disasters and the like, has been limited, owing to the lack of the specialized software needed.

Humanitarian products, such as medicines, medical equipment and food, which were purchased through multilateral cooperation, were affected by these restrictions, thus considerably conditioning the humanitarian assistance delivered by the United Nations system in Cuba. The outreach of food emergency operations in 2009 was affected due to the prohibition to hire the most price-competitive, United States-based bidder.

United Nations staff missions to United Nations Headquarters in the United States

Cuban United Nations staff required to travel to United Nations Headquarters in New York experience delays in the authorization of visas, which leads to cancellation of missions or rebooking of air tickets at higher costs. Longer, costlier alternative routes via third countries need to be booked, due to the lack of direct flights from Cuba to New York. This hinders the participation and representation of Cuba's United Nations system staff in corporate training and official meetings limiting the capacities of the United Nations system in Cuba to work and to follow up on the latest systems, policies and guidance, etc. implemented in other countries on development and emergency activities.

Exchange of expertise

Cuban experts from Government, academia and civil society invited to United Nations-hosted events also experience problems in obtaining visas in a timely manner. Likewise, United States scientists and/or technicians travelling to Cuba on expertise-exchange missions face travel limitations, affecting the work of the United Nations in the country and the potential for further related development opportunities related to the Millennium Development Goals.

Financial services from United States banks

United Nations local offices in Cuba cannot make use of corporate accounts with United States banks. Therefore, those offices have to use additional administrative measures to undertake programme finance operations, resulting in higher costs to the office and a higher administrative burden entailed by the use of third country banks. The related incremented costs have been covered by United Nations and projects funds from other donor countries. Bank transfer operations have also been occasionally retained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, affecting the timely implementation of development activities.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

[Original: English]
[21 May 2010]

Cuba is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. As such, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) receives and decides asylum claims under its mandate and contributes to providing assistance to the refugee population. Thus far, Cuba has maintained its de facto policy of non-refoulement protection and assistance in the education and health sectors to refugees recognized under the UNHCR mandate, but does not offer local integration possibilities for these. Therefore, and in the absence of prospects for voluntary return in most of the cases, the only durable solution for refugees in Cuba is resettlement sought by UNHCR in third countries.

It is anticipated that Cuba's readiness to become a party to the international refugee instruments and to engage in finding solutions to the refugee situation within the country are dependent on a change in its bilateral relations with the United States. In this sense, any measure contributing to ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba is seen as a positive step that may lead to Cuba's accession.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]
[29 June 2010]

In the Accra Accord adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at its twelfth session, held in April 2008, States are urged to refrain from applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It also

stresses that meaningful trade liberalization requires addressing unilateral measures which may act as non-tariff trade barriers, and that international efforts are needed to reduce or eliminate such measures. The embargo measures applied by the United States against Cuba are the type of measures referred to in the Accra Accord, and they have imposed substantial costs on Cuba.

Trends in Cuba

The embargo has had significant negative effects on the Cuban economy and on the standard of living of Cuban citizens. The Government of Cuba reports that overall direct economic losses caused by the embargo exceeded $96 billion at the end of 2008.[6] The losses are attributed to the additional costs incurred by the Government of Cuba, enterprises, and citizens in obtaining goods, services, and finance. For example, the Government of Cuba reports that losses incurred between May 2008 and April 2009 due to the embargo amounted to $122 million in the agro-food sector, $25 million in the public health sector, $47 million in the construction sector, and $242 million in the external sector. The lack of access to loans and grants from international development agencies such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, has hindered Cuba's recovery from the damages caused by the three hurricanes in the second half of 2008. Moreover, the embargo severely limits Cuba's development of science and technology and of such industries as informatics and communications due to the dominant position of the United States in these increasingly important fields. Cuba's inability to connect to United States Internet service providers significantly contributes to its low level of Internet access, which in turn adversely affects all economic and social sectors in the country. The country is an active member of the World Trade Organization, and it continues to demand that World Trade Organization member countries eliminate all barriers imposed as unilateral trade measures.

In spite of the difficulties caused by the embargo, three powerful hurricanes, and the global financial and economic crisis, the Cuban economy grew by 4.1 per cent in 2008.[7] However, this is considerably less than the average growth rate of 10.2 per cent for the period from 2005 to 2007. UNCTAD estimates that in 2008 the country's exports of goods accounted for $3.8 billion, or roughly the same level as the previous year. However, the country's 2008 imports of goods rose by over $4 billion to $14.4 billion. This sharp rise in imports and the resulting trade deficit are due to the high price of oil and the increased importation of food and other goods because of the three hurricanes.

With regard to trade in goods, the main export items in 2008 were "ores and metals", accounting for 45 per cent of total exports, followed by "manufactured goods", and "all food items". This ranking of sectors was the same as in the previous year, although the share of "ores and metals" exports declined, while those of the other two sectors increased. The fall in "ores and metals" exports was caused by the decline in the international price of nickel. As to the destination of Cuba's exports, the Latin America and Caribbean region became the largest market for Cuban goods in 2008, absorbing one quarter of Cuba's total exports. In contrast,

[6] World Trade Organization document, "Cuba-Article XV: 6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994: report by the Government of Cuba under the decision of 15 December 2006", WT/L/781, 7 December 2009.

[7] Ibid.

while the European Union had traditionally been the number one destination for Cuban exports, it now took in 20 per cent of Cuba's export goods. Cuba's exports to the Latin America and Caribbean region mostly consisted of "manufactured goods", while for the European Union they mostly consisted of "all food items" and "ores and metals".

The main import item in 2008 was "manufactured goods" in the amount of $7.2 billion, or 50 per cent of the total. The second biggest item was "fuels" in the amount of $4.5 billion, or 31 per cent of the total. This ranking of sectors was the same as in the previous year. The Latin America and Caribbean region was the largest source of imports, accounting for $6.2 billion, or 43 per cent, of Cuba's total. This was followed by the European Union, which accounted for $3.2 billion, or 22 per cent, of Cuba's total. Since the introduction in the United States of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, that country has become the largest exporter of agricultural products to Cuba. It retained this position in 2008, accounting for $1 billion, or 37 per cent, of Cuba's total agricultural imports.

With regard to trade in services, Cuba's exports rose from $6.6 billion to $8.8 billion during the period from 2005 to 2008. At the same time, its imports grew from $1 billion to $2.1 billion. Health, education and tourism are the major service exports of Cuba. The cooperation agreement with Venezuela remains a particularly important source of support for the Cuban economy.[8] Finally, with regard to foreign direct investment, UNCTAD estimates that inflows in 2008 amounted to $36 million, up by $6 million from the previous year.[9]

Although 2009 data is not yet available, a sharp economic decline is projected due to the global financial and economic crisis, rapidly falling commodity prices, and the tightening of international credit markets, including trade finance. Compounding its problems, Cuba is presently suffering a severe drought, and a possible shortfall in domestic food production is a serious source of concern.[10] Food security is a focus of the Millennium Development Goals for Cuba, and the difficulties which the country faces could delay their achievement.[11] For goods trade in 2009, UNCTAD estimates $3.1 billion in exports and $9.6 billion in imports, generating a deficit of $6.5 billion, or $4.8 billion less than the previous year. This decline reflects a reduction in imports, due to the falling price of nickel, the curtailment of investment programmes, and the introduction of austerity measures in mid-2009.[12] For services trade in 2009, UNCTAD estimates $8.0 billion in exports and $1.3 billion in imports, representing a surplus of $6.7 billion, or about the same amount from the previous year. Remittances also play a large role in Cuba's economy. It is estimated that remittances total from $600 million to $1 billion per year, with most coming from families in the United

[8] The Economist Intelligence Unit, "Country report: Cuba", May 2010, p. 4. Through this agreement, Cuban health and education professionals are supplied to Venezuela in exchange for Venezuelan oil.

[9] UNCTAD *World Investment Report 2009: Transnational Corporations, Agricultural Production and Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.II.D.15), annex table B.1. Foreign direct investment flows, by region and economy, 2006-2008, p. 249, www.unctad.org/wir.

[10] "Country report, Cuba", May 2010, p. 12, op. cit.

[11] MDG Achievement Fund, "Cuba: Food Security Focus of new UN Programmes", www.mdgfund.org/fr/story/foodSecurityFocusofNew.

[12] "Country report, Cuba", Dec. 2009, Economic Intelligent Unit, pp. 12 and 13.

States.[13] While it is expected that the lifting of the restriction on remittances from Cuban-Americans by the United States Government in April 2009 would substantially increase remittance inflow to Cuba, the global financial and economic crisis could negatively affect the inflow into the country.

Developments in the United States

While low-profile cooperation in areas of mutual interest between Cuba and the United States has continued,[14] the status of the embargo did not change from the previous reporting period. While some in the United States Congress continue to advocate the lifting of restrictions on tourist travel by United States citizens and an easing of agricultural exports, their proposals face strong political opposition. If the travel restrictions are lifted, it is estimated that, within a few years, Cuba could have over 1 million United States tourists a year,[15] which would exceed the record of the largest tourist source country in 2009, that is, Canada, sending 900,000 tourists accounting for over one quarter of total foreign visitors in Cuba.[16] The 2009 lifting of restrictions on Cuban-American visits to Cuba has already increased monthly United States arrivals to 20,000, up from 9,000 before the change.[17] In addition, if the restrictions on United States agricultural exports are eased, it is estimated that sales to Cuba could increase from the current level of $900 million to $1-2 billion annually.[18] However, the relaxation in 2009 of restrictions on United States telecommunication services has not had a notable effect, as no companies have entered the Cuban market. The apparent lack of interest has been attributed to the perception that the costs and risks of operating in Cuba outweigh the marginal economic benefits.[19]

Conclusions

Since the previous reporting period there has been no significant change in the United States embargo, which continues to be a substantial obstacle to increased efficiency and productivity, and to improved living standards for Cuban citizens. The recent impact has been particularly severe because Cuba was also struck by multiple powerful hurricanes, severe drought, low nickel prices, a growing fiscal deficit and the global financial and economic crises. The lack of access to loans and grants from the international financial institutions adds to the difficulties of Cuba. Although the bilateral cooperation programmes with developing countries help Cuba to face the challenge of the United States embargo, the country still endures tremendous economic and social hardship. In particular, given Cuba's potential for developing more knowledge-intensive and high value-added industries, the inability

[13] U.S. Department of State "Background Note: Cuba", 25 March 2010, http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2886.htm.

[14] The Economic Intelligence Unit, "Country report, Cuba", June 2010, p. 10. United States visas were granted to some Cuban cultural figures, and scientists and officials from both countries have worked together to deal with the recent major oil spill in the Mexican Gulf.

[15] Ibid., p. 12.

[16] Gulfnews.com, "Cuba ready for US tourist influx", 27 March 2010, http://gulfnews.com/business/tourism/cuba-ready-for-us-tourist-influx-1.603453.

[17] "Country report, Cuba", June 2010, p. 12, op. cit.

[18] *Inside U.S. Trade*, "Ag Chairman Wants Cuba Changes, But Administration Not Moving On Policy", 26 March 2010.

[19] *Inside U.S. Trade*, "U.S. Telecom Companies Fail To Use New Rules on Exports to Cuba", 14 May 2010.

to conduct exchange with the United States has profound implications for the country. Finally, the embargo continues to deprive United States citizens of the substantial economic, scientific, and cultural opportunities that would potentially result from having normal relations with Cuba.

Merchandise exports and imports by Cuba, 2005-2009
(Millions of United States dollars)

Partner	*Commodity group*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[a]*	*2008*	*2009[b]*
Exports						
European Union (27 States)	All food items	316	324	409	324	
	Ores and metal	619	675	553	394	
	Fuels	—	—	—	—	
	Manufactured goods	32	25	6	51	
	Total	**969**	**1 024**	**968**	**769**	
Latin America and the Caribbean	All food items	27	29	28	4	
	Ores and metal	25	5	3	—	
	Fuels	6	—	—	1	
	Manufactured goods	556	569	741	931	
	Total	**616**	**604**	**771**	**937**	
United States of America	All food items	1	—	—	—	
	Ores and metal	—	—	—	—	
	Fuels	—	—	—	—	
	Manufactured goods	—	—	—	—	
	Total	**1**	**—**	**—**	**—**	
Rest of the world	All food items	201	342	330	623	
	Ores and metal	480	992	1 573	1 317	
	Fuels	13	11	52	84	
	Manufactured goods	39	8	6	41	
	Total	**733**	**1 352**	**1 961**	**2 064**	
World	All food items	544	695	767	951	
	Ores and metal	1 124	1 672	2 129	1 712	
	Fuels	20	11	52	87	
	Manufactured goods	627	602	752	1 025	
	Total	**2 319**	**2 980**	**3 701**	**3 775**	**3 109**
Imports						
European Union (27 States)	All food items	192	176	174	424	
	Ores and metal	31	20	30	59	
	Fuels	6	2	1	42	
	Manufactured goods	1 604	2 010	1 885	2 686	
	Total	**1 843**	**2 216**	**2 090**	**3 210**	

Partner	*Commodity group*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[a]	*2008*	*2009*[b]
Latin America and the Caribbean	All food items	433	465	633	657	
	Ores and metals	28	31	16	46	
	Fuels	1 941	2 537	2 988	4 460	
	Manufactured goods	767	816	814	995	
	Total	**3 187**	**3 850**	**4 451**	**6 157**	
United States of America	All food items	493	430	563	916	
	Ores and metals	—	—	—	—	
	Fuels	—	—	—	—	
	Manufactured goods	21	14	10	26	
	Total	**521**	**453**	**573**	**944**	
Rest of the world	All food items	503	330	214	478	
	Ores and metals	40	29	13	121	
	Fuels	154	338	275	12	
	Manufactured goods	1 812	2 975	2 467	3 515	
	Total	**2 534**	**3 655**	**2 969**	**4 126**	
World	All food items	1 621	1 402	1 583	2 474	
	Ores and metals	98	80	59	227	
	Fuels	2 101	2 876	3 264	4 515	
	Manufactured goods	4 204	5 816	5 177	7 222	
	Total	**8 084**	**10 174**	**10 083**	**14 437**	**9 623**

Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations, based on United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database and the International Monetary Fund Direction of Trade Statistics database.

Notes: All food items (Standard International Trade Classification, codes 0+1+22+4)
Ores and metal (Standard International Trade Classification, codes 27+28+68)
Fuels (Standard International Trade Classification, code 3)
Manufactured goods (Standard International Trade Classification, codes 5 to 8, less codes 67 and 68).

[a] Estimates.

[b] For 2009, only the figure for the total exports to the world is available.

Service exports and imports by Cuba, 2005-2009[a]

(Millions of United States dollars)

2005		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*	
Export	*Import*	*Export*	*Import*	*Export*	*Import*	*Export*	*Import*	*Export*	*Import*
6 551	1 018	6 667	1 263	8 207	1 330	8 827	2 092	7 976	1 293

Source: EIU and World Trade Organization.

[a] Estimates.

United Nations Development Programme

[Original: English]
[20 May 2010]

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office in Cuba has been preparing annual reports on the effects of the embargo since 1992. During 2009, the situation remained very similar to previous years. The impact of the embargo can be observed in all spheres of the country's social and economic activities, affecting opportunities for national and local development and creating economic hardship. The embargo also affects the population's most vulnerable groups and human development in general.

According to estimates by Cuban authorities, cumulative direct and indirect losses to the Cuban economy due to the embargo since the early 1960s amount to US$ 96,000 billion (2009 figures). The embargo has limited Cuba's access to development credits granted by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. This has narrowed the possibility of obtaining resources to financially support Cuba's national and/or local development plans.

It has been very difficult to establish partnerships and to collaborate with United States non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and research institutes, and to promote exchanges among experts from both countries. The embargo has limited the efforts of United States-based NGOs and private foundations to undertake development activities in Cuba, and as a result has also limited possible partnerships between UNDP and United States-based civil society groups.

The embargo has had negative consequences for external cooperation initiatives, creating many difficulties for programme and project implementation due to trade restrictions or prohibitions on purchasing inputs from United States companies and their subsidiaries. This situation impacts negatively on the final cost of imported project inputs, due to intermediaries and transportation-associated costs.

Due to Cuba's geographical position, the United States market represents the closest, most convenient and most diversified trade area. However, Cuban companies are still unable to purchase products, components or technologies in United States territory, or from United States companies, the exception being foodstuffs, and it only through full cost advanced cash payments, which require lengthy procedures and serve to discourage transactions.

As a result, Cuba has to purchase and import products from more distant places at a much higher cost. This has directly impacted all UNDP development projects and emergency activities, both by increasing the transaction costs of obtaining project inputs as well as increasing the transportation costs of those imported goods.

A clear example of the above, in the case of emergency post-hurricane recovery initiatives, is the fact that emergency inputs such as roofs, tools etc, had to be purchased at higher prices and in longer periods of time, negatively delaying the preparation of emergency shelters for the persons who lost their homes.

Another example under the projects financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, for which UNDP serves as the principal recipient, is the fact that inputs, such as medicines, reagents, and laboratory equipment, aimed at benefiting people of all ages living with AIDS, are purchased from third countries and from secondary suppliers at prices significantly higher than those on the international market. Even if UNDP has long-term corporate agreements with international suppliers, the embargo restrictions impede the purchase of the needed goods through this mechanism, if such products are being manufactured or have a component manufactured in the United States. An example of the above is Ritonavir, a paediatric antiretroviral drug. With regard to the food security initiatives being implemented by UNDP, the four main projects under way, amounting to US$ 29 million, had to be budgeted taking into account the impact of the embargo; therefore higher costs had to be programmed in relation to the purchase and transportation of key inputs for food production that otherwise would be programmed to development activities in the field. Affected inputs in this sector include high-quality seeds, irrigation systems, and agricultural machinery.

The embargo also affects the day-to-day work of the UNDP Cuba office and places it at a disadvantage compared to other country offices, due to limitations on the benefits that would come from corporate long-term agreements to effectively implement and follow up on the impact and the implementation of development and emergency activities. This results in higher transaction costs of at least 15 per cent charge due to the participation of intermediaries, higher costs on the purchase of equipment, such as computers, and the access to software licences, etc. The UNDP local office in Cuba cannot make use of corporate accounts with United States banks and therefore has to take additional administrative measures in order to carry out programme finance operations, resulting in higher costs to the office and the higher administrative burden that is entailed by the use of third-country banks. The related incremented costs have been covered by UNDP and project funds from other donor countries. During 2009, a bank transfer was retained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, which significantly affected the timely implementation of development activities.

UNDP national staff required to travel to UNDP headquarters in New York experience delays in the authorization of visas, which leads to cancellation of missions or rebooking of air tickets at higher costs. In addition, longer, costlier alternative routes via third countries need to be booked, owing to the lack of direct flights from Havana to New York. This hinders the participation and representation of Cuba's UNDP system staff in corporate training and official meetings limiting the capacities of the UNDP office in Cuba to work under, and follow up on, the latest systems, policies and guidance, etc. implemented in other countries to effectively reach development and emergency goals and impacts.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English]
[10 June 2010]

As the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is not a funding agency but a specialized technical agency within the United Nations system, it is difficult to quantify the damage of the embargo on

programmes run by the organization within its fields of competence: education, science, culture and communications and information. However, from the qualitative point of view, the embargo continues to have an impact in the fields of competence of UNESCO and the following observations can be made.

The situation has remained relatively unchanged since 2009. In the area of education, the embargo continues to have an impact on the availability of educational resources, linked to trade restrictions that prevent their purchase at more competitive prices. In the area of science, the embargo continues to limit the ability to purchase up-to-date scientific materials, and scientific academic and professional exchanges continue to be limited by visa policies that make travel and study movement difficult. In the area of culture, the embargo continues to have an impact on the ability to obtain historic preservation materials, supplies for cultural industries and cooperation with United States institutions that might otherwise collaborate, including exchanges. In the area of communications and information, Cuba remains unable to acquire underwater fibre-optic cables handled by United States firms, software licences and certain equipment.

The embargo also impacts on the operations of the UNESCO office in Havana, resulting in additional costs for the organization in tickets, communications, etc. Staff and their families are also affected personally, for example with regard to bank transfers and international communications.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

Cuba has made tremendous progress on the environmental development front in recent years. A clear demonstration of this can be found in the latest Environmental Performance index study which was published by Yale and Columbia Universities, which ranked Cuba as ninth in the world in terms of environmental performance (ahead of such countries as Finland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). However, achieving environmental protection and sustainable development is significantly hampered by the current economic, commercial and financial embargo. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has a number of projects being implemented in Cuba which are not directly affected by the embargo, such as the Caribbean Biological Corridor, which is in its starting phase through an agreement between Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and now Jamaica as a permanent observer; as well as the development of environmental indicators under the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development in cooperation with the Office of Statistics and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment. Much of the work of UNEP in Cuba is carried out through South-South cooperation that involves knowledge transfer, capacity-building and technical support from Cuba to other countries, by way of training workshops, capacity-building activities, expert meetings, etc.

The new programme of work of UNEP is now focused on six priority areas, namely, climate change, disasters and conflict, ecosystem management, environmental governance, harmful substances and resource efficiency. The efforts carried out by UNEP in Cuba are mainly in the areas of resource efficiency, climate

change, and ecosystems management. The Centre for Global Economy Studies in Cuba is one of the selected centres of excellence in UNEP for assessment-related activities, also known as global environment outlook collaborating centres. The Centre for Global Economy Studies in Cuba is currently collaborating in the production of the global environment outlook regional report for the Latin American and Caribbean Region which will be launched in July 2010.

The continuing embargo translates into missed opportunities for environmental cooperation in the region, as demonstrated in the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico following drilling operations by British Petroleum in the Gulf area of the United States. The oil spill is damaging the coastal areas of the United States in the Gulf, and could also damage the coastal areas of east Florida and Cuba. Cooperation between the two countries would be key in addressing this issue, especially if the spill spreads further.

As such, the necessity of an agreement for the prevention and joint management of this and other possible accidents, as well as natural disasters, underlined in the last UNEP report, has now become a pressing issue.

Other examples of impacts linked with the embargo are outlined below:

(a) As United States companies are not allowed to sell equipment, technology, and other products to Cuban companies, the latter are obliged to buy them in other more distant markets. This increases cargo travel times to Cuba, thereby also increasing carbon emissions associated with transport;

(b) Under its energy revolution programme, Cuba continues to take action in the area of energy efficiency, as well as promoting recycling and other green technologies, with the aim of decreasing oil consumption and carbon dioxide emissions and increasing general resource efficiency. However, United States companies and their subsidiaries in other countries are prohibited from selling to Cuba technologies that could benefit this endeavour. Similarly, other products of non-United States companies that contain parts or components provided by United States companies or subsidiaries and that could assist in advancing such developments cannot be sold to Cuba;

(c) Cuba is one of the world's leaders in biological research, with thousands of graduates from the country's ten universities and institutes devoted to working in ecology, producing important technologies and products. Cuba also possesses significant knowledge in natural resources conservation. However, these technologies and products cannot be sold in the United States, hampering Cuba's ability to maximize the returns from these investments and potential to fuel future research and technological development;

(d) The participation of Cuban experts in environmental and sustainable development conferences and training activities is often constrained by travel restrictions and thousands of dollars are spent on more expensive and often longer routes for travel to ensure that Cuban experts can actively participate in and contribute to international meetings;

(e) The embargo also restricts Cuba's access to information from leading scientific and technical journals and publications, as well as Internet access to specialized companies and institutions in the United States. This limits access by Cuban academics, engineers and students to cutting-edge developments in energy

and environmental sciences, which could increase their capacity to implement and further develop sound environmental technologies;

(f) Both the United States and Cuba have an interest in oil exploration and exploitation in shared marine areas. Joint environmental impact studies and environmentally friendly methods of operation are currently not possible, as a result of the embargo. The recent oil spill underlines this issue as a matter of urgency;

(g) The United States and Cuba are located in regions with critical biological corridors that could benefit from full regional cooperation, which is not possible under the continuing embargo;

(h) Both countries are also located in a region where disasters, particularly hurricanes, are seriously affecting ecosystems and populations, and are working to attain higher levels of prevention of and preparation for disasters. In this sense, cooperation would benefit both countries, as well as other countries of the wider Caribbean area;

(i) Another consequence of the embargo is the limited access to international loans and international financial institutions which hampers Cuba's sustainability efforts.

In conclusion, the elimination of the obstacles that limit normal exchange between the two countries would contribute to advancement in sustainable management of shared ecosystems, cooperation between scientific and academic communities and the increased contribution of both countries in the fight against climate change, natural disasters and the prevention of accidents. It would also benefit other countries where the United States and Cuba have cooperative programmes, such as Haiti and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

[Original: English]
[10 May 2010]

The impact of the embargo has two elements as far as the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is concerned.

The first relates to long-term impact, which has negative implications for:

(a) A stable and a speedy import supply of construction materials, tools and equipment, as well as energy and raw materials for the construction and maintenance of human settlements, as well as their reconstruction after natural disasters;

(b) The transfer of more efficient and ecologically sound technologies and the use of patents originating from the United States, or commercialized by United States companies and other companies around the world;

(c) Access to energy, energy-saving technologies and oil. These are important assets in the provision of basis urban services such as transport, solid waste collection and disposal, water supply and sanitation, and emergency response to hazards, such as fires, floods and hurricanes so that Cubans can use efficient and environmentally sustainable alternatives;

(d) Access to low-cost chemicals and equipment for water and wastewater treatment, which is also needed to improve the quality and affordability of these services, and the impact on environmental and public health as a result;

(e) The resolution of outstanding claims on properties previously owned by United States citizens or naturalized Cuban citizens, which is necessary for the use and rehabilitation of important facilities and the nationality and coherence of urban and real estate development;

(f) Visa and travel permits needed for scientific, technical and cultural exchanges, particularly for planners, architects, engineers and social scientists to advise their Cuban counterparts in the design, planning and managements of housing and human settlements.

In essence, from the human settlements perspective, the implementation of resolution 64/6 will improve the social, economic and environmental effects on human settlements, planning and management and environmental health, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged segments of the population.

The second is in relation to the relevant activities of the Programme since June 2008, which have continued despite the embargo:

(a) UN-Habitat has been developing technical cooperation projects in collaboration with its counterparts in the Cuban National Housing Institute and the Physical Planning Institute. In June 2008, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat signed a cooperation agreement on sustainable human settlements and urban environmental management, which is still active;

(b) In the aftermath of hurricanes Gustave and Ike, UN-Habitat has been actively participating in the reconstruction process with other United Nations agencies in the affected areas through local capacity-building in planning and housing reconstruction with 6,480 affected families;

(c) UN-Habitat has an active role in the preparation of the United Nations country document, and is currently formulating a Habitat country programme document integrating collaborative projects between UN-Habitat and the Government of Cuba for 2010-2011. It will be published shortly;

(d) Given the magnitude and complexity of the recovery process after the hurricanes, an immediate area of intervention has been identified that focuses on strengthening capacities at the local level to housing victims based on promoting self-help reconstruction with the help of local government and housing authorities.

All of the above UN-Habitat activities have been negatively affected by the embargo.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

[Original: English]
[4 May 2010]

As stated previously, it is the view of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) that the embargo has had, and continues to have, a negative impact on Cuba's economic development. The situation has been further aggravated by the current global financial crisis and the natural catastrophes

that hit the country during 2008. Although UNIDO is continuing to cooperate with Cuba in several technical fields, the long-term benefit to the country of such cooperation may be diminished by the prolonged embargo.

At present, UNIDO is implementing programmes that focus on energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy, cleaner production, sustainable management of the environment and agri-business development. The programmes are funded by the Governments of Austria and Switzerland, the Global Environment Facility, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and by the UNIDO regular budget.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]
[3 June 2010]

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes that, while the above-mentioned embargo remains in place, the Caribbean region continues to be increasingly confronted with a number of serious challenges related to the trafficking of illicit drugs. Together with other Caribbean countries, Cuba finds itself between the world's largest cocaine producers in Latin America and the world's largest drug consumers, namely, North America and Europe. UNODC is strengthening its presence in the Caribbean to support member States in their efforts to counter these challenges, and expects to strengthen its cooperation with Cuba in the context of its new initiatives for the region.

Cuba is covered by the UNODC Regional Programme Office for Central America in Panama, which initiated its activities in September 2009. UNODC plans to include Cuba in several activities that will be managed from that Office, including the establishment of a network of prosecutors that will provide a forum for the exchange of best practices, the sharing of case information and police intelligence, as well as the development and sharing of money-laundering typologies and the facilitation of training. In addition, the network will assist with the identification of technical cooperation needs for the region and at the country level that can be addressed by UNODC or by others.

As a follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in the Caribbean, jointly organized by UNODC and the Dominican Republic and held in Santo Domingo, from 17 to 20 February 2009, UNODC has developed a Regional Programme for the Caribbean. The Regional Programme covers all Caribbean member States that are signatories of the Santo Domingo political declaration produced during the Ministerial Conference, including Cuba. Based on the Regional Programme, a series of subprogrammes are being developed and will be implemented in partnership with different regional partners.

Furthermore as a follow-up to the Ministerial Conference, UNODC is now in the implementation phase of the Santo Domingo Pact and Managua Mechanism. The Mechanism focuses in the first instance on combating drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, and secondly, on preventing crime and providing legal advice and technical assistance to countries in Central America and the Caribbean in a coordinated manner. This initiative will strengthen regional

networking, the sharing of information and encourage joint operational responses among law enforcement and other interested national stakeholders in the Caribbean and Central America. A key focus is to facilitate data collection and to encourage its analysis in support of developing sound strategic and operational responses, and to facilitate periodical consultations and encourage strategic partnerships at the operational and policy levels, in order to more effectively identify and implement coordinated responses to illicit trafficking and transnational organized crime.

The inclusion of Cuba in the different UNODC initiatives for the Caribbean will strengthen the country's cooperation with its regional counterparts. In this context it will be very important for Cuban counterparts to have access to compatible infrastructure and technology to facilitate the implementation of the above-mentioned Mechanism. It is very important for UNODC to promote resource mobilization to include Cuba in the implementation of UNODC activities. Such resources will be invested in the strategic areas as part of the Regional Programme for the Caribbean, thereby contributing to the reduction of the vulnerability of Cuba and the Caribbean countries to drug trafficking and organized crime. This Office continues to search proactively for resources to fund and expand its operations in the Caribbean, including Cuba.

United Nations Population Fund

[Original: English]
[24 May 2010]

Since the previous report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in May 2009, the main measures of the commercial, economic and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba have remained invariable. It continues to affect the economic, social and cultural development of the Cuban people, particularly, the quality of life of the most vulnerable groups.

The UNFPA country programme continues to face many difficulties in the acquisition and purchasing of commodities, equipment, medicines and laboratory materials produced by the United States or covered by United States patents. It is difficult, and almost impossible, in the case of United States product suppliers. Commodities linked to sexual and reproductive health assistance and related materials have to be purchased in other regions, generally with a consequent increase in transportation and freight charges.

Lack of merchandise and difficulties for the acquisition of all kinds of commodities in the local market increased in 2009. As a result, the purchasing process in 2009 was more complex. Because of the economic crisis, it has been necessary to import many merchandises and commodities. In many cases providers have requested to be paid by bank transfers outside the country due to the lack of bank liquidity within the country. The increase of bank transfers and the additional information required by the new vendor website in the case of bank transfers has provoked delays in payment processes when bank data from Cuba appears. The United States embargo has affected not only the acquisition of products but also the terms of payments. The Office of Foreign Assets Control has sometimes retained bank transfers operations.

President Obama does not have a negative image among most Cubans, but people are sceptical with regard to his position to loosen some embargo restrictions towards the island. The Obama administration's commitment to fund international family planning programmes, to reverse a decade of inadequate funding, and eliminate punitive legislative restrictions improved the United States contribution to UNFPA. But the United States contribution to UNFPA does not include assistance to Cuba. The rate of growth of the Cuban economy (GDP) was relatively low in 2009: 1.4 per cent; 2010 will be characterized by a very strong economic plan and strict use of resources, several barriers to access international funding sources and a reduction in the demand for Cuban main exports. The Government of Cuba will continue to make efforts to maintain primary and community health care for all, as well as to provide assistance, basic products and services for those affected by the influenza A (H1N1) virus; special attention will be given to guarantee obstetric and reproductive health services. The influenza A (H1N1) virus has particularly affected pregnant women and children under 5 years of age. Special attention has been given to these groups.

International sources of assistance to Cuba are very limited. UNFPA is one of the very few sources of funds to support sexual and reproductive health, population and development, and gender programmes. UNFPA cooperation is helping to build national capacity and to develop best practices that may also benefit other countries in the region.

Universal Postal Union

[Original: English]
[28 May 2010]

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is not directly involved in implementing resolution 64/6, which only affects Member States.

UPU has always regarded Cuba as a full-fledged member of the organization and as such, Cuba enjoys the same rights and obligations as other UPU members. In recent times, Cuba has benefited from joint UPU/Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal regional development projects foreseen in the UPU Regional Development Plan for Latin America in the field of postal payment services and philately.

Furthermore, Cuba plays an active role in the activities of UPU and its bodies. For example, Cuba was elected as a member of the Council of administration of UPU and of the Postal Operation Council of UPU at the last UPU Congress, held in 2008, and serves on a number of the Council's committees and working groups.

World Food Programme

[Original: English]
[2 June 2010]

The United States embargo continues to severely limit trade and has a direct impact on the capacity and efficiency of Cuba's logistics infrastructure (port,

warehousing, commodity tracking), food processing, water distribution and agricultural production.

The efficiency of the food-based social safety nets of the Cuban Government, which are instrumental to household food security, is thereby negatively affected. Combined with (and partly contributing to) deteriorating land and water quality, these factors have an impact on people's well-being. Micronutrient deficiencies are a concern. Anaemia prevalence continues to be high, especially among children under 2 years of age, jeopardizing their development potential. The impact is stronger in the eastern provinces where food insecurity is higher.

The global financial crisis, along with the crippling impact of the 2008 hurricane season, have further compounded the situation. The procurement and shipment of food and non-food commodities was delayed due to the above-mentioned logistics challenges.

In August 2009, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched an international tender to purchase rice and the tender was awarded to an Indian company based in the United States. This company offered the most competitive price, but because of the embargo, the tender had to be awarded to another, non-United States company. As a result, WFP was only able to purchase 525 metric tons of rice (instead of 544), which meant that 27,000 children were deprived of their rice ration for one month.

Because of the embargo, vessels are obliged to make a stopover in a neighbouring country for trans-shipment. This causes delays and additional costs which also affect WFP shipments.

World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization

[Original: English/Spanish]
[4 June 2010]

Impact on the Cuban people, the health sector and on individual health

In economic terms, according to Cuba's governmental sources, the cumulative impact on health since the beginning of the embargo is estimated to be $2,318.3 million. In the health area, the consequences of the embargo have a multiplying negative effect by impacting the cost of health products used on a daily basis, the basic social services and therefore, the overall living conditions of the Cuban people. The limitations imposed by the embargo have worsened due to the global economic crisis, which does not exclude Cuba.

Public health is impacted by the limited access to infrastructure investments: housing, highways, potable water and sanitation. More directly, public health is impacted by the lack of resources needed to counteract epidemiological threats, such as the influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. The economic embargo slows the progress of public health in Cuba, overall, by preventing Cuba's access to loans and donations from international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank and by limiting access to donations from United States philanthropy and civil society. Owing to the embargo, Cuba procures goods through distributors that inflate the cost of products and sometimes are not able to provide the specific items, but rather, similar ones; as a result, the quality of life and

health is diminished. The complexity of those consequences makes it difficult to estimate their magnitude and monetary cost.

The embargo affects the individual health care of persons, regardless of age and sex, by impacting the agencies of the national unified health system, research agencies, and epidemiological surveillance and disease control agencies.

Research

The embargo continues to limit the scientific exchange, despite the recognition accorded to the country in the fields of science and innovation. Cuba has no access to a submarine fibre-optic line. This limits the participation of Cuba in virtual forums, scientific communities of practice, and research-relevant events. It also limits the access to open-source software. The Cuban scientific community is at a disadvantage due to the lack of access to grants and scholarships provided by the United States for further studies and training and development of research projects. Such was the case for a training activity jointly organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), in which the former denied the participation of a Cuban expert from Pedro Kourí Institute (IPK) in the workshop on the laboratory technique Reverse Transcriptase-Protein Reaction. This training would probably happen in another country, implying additional costs.

Health services

The paediatric oncological services have not been able to apply expandable prosthesis commonly used to replace bone segments in bone cancer surgery; consequently, they have not been able to carry out conservative and functional treatments to children and youth with bone cancer, since such medical devices are commercialized by United States companies. Other patients suffering from this type of diseases have also been affected, due to lack of access to the automatic biopsy system (trademark PRO-MAG) commercialized by World Wide Medical Technologies and to the automatic biopsy system for solid tumours BARD-BIOPTY, both used for the diagnosis of breast cancer, prostate cancer and other types of cancers. Oncological services have also been prevented from treating retina cancers with conservative techniques, such as the use of radiation therapy with radioactive iodine, since those products are commercialized by the United States company 3M. This conservative treatment allows doctors to preserve the functionality of the eyes and reduces the rates of enucleations in patients with this type of tumours. Patients do not have access to Imiquimod, a medicine used for selected cases of skin cancer and also produced by 3M.

Orthopaedic and trauma services are impacted by the lack of access to prosthesis for the joints of hands, commonly used for patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Cardiology services were not able to get 12 hemodynamic multimetrix monitors (trademark DATEX-OHMEDA). The lack of this type of equipment hinders post-surgery surveillance of patients, extending the stay of patients and in some cases leading to preventable deaths. In addition, the lack of either carto-biosense or the EnSite electro-anatomical mapping system (produced by Johnson & Johnson and Saint Jude, respectively) impedes the performance of ablation of complex disritmias. In order to provide quality services to patients suffering with cardiac dysrhythmias, they are sent to Italy for the treatment at a cost

of 15,000 to 18,000 euros, which does not include travel costs and per diem. Other high-technology equipment, such as the flow cytometers and reagents for the immulogical diagnosis of malign blood diseases and primary immune deficiencies, both commercialized by Becton-Dickerson, are not available for the same reason.

The HIV/AIDS programme has also been affected by the lack of procurement of antiretroviral drugs used in children Kaletra (Lopinavir/Ritonavir) and Norvir (Ritonavir), both produced by ABBOTT.

Epidemiological surveillance

The embargo was the reason for the delay in delivering equipment, goods and diagnostic kits for the new influenza A (H1N1) virus. The diagnostic kit for this disease was provided to influenza laboratories of the world as an output of the Global Influenza Surveillance Network. Since, on the one hand, the kit was developed and distributed by the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre located in the United States of America, its delivery to Cuba was significantly delayed. On the other hand, the national influenza laboratory of Cuba was not allowed to contribute to the Network with the influenza virus identified in that country, since all virus identified in the Americas hemisphere are channelled to the Network through the same centre. This results in the exclusion of influenza virus circulating in Cuba as part of the composition of the influenza vaccine.

The Pedro Kourí Institute (IPK), a WHO Collaborating Centre, has also been affected. IPK is a member PULSENET, the Latin American network responsible for molecular epidemiological surveillance of salmonella, escheriquia coli, shigella and vibrio cholera. IPK participation in PULSENET is limited due to lack of access to the pulse field electrophoresis techniques. The equipment cannot be obtained because it is commercialized by the United States company BIO-RAD.

The list of cases can be expanded. However, only the above-mentioned have been selected to illustrate the impact of the embargo.

Impact on the technical cooperation programme of PAHO/WHO

Due to the embargo, the operation of PAHO/WHO in Cuba is carried out at a higher cost than to the operations of the organization in other countries. This results in fewer resources for technical cooperation with the country.

Furthermore, in an effort to respond to the responsibilities assigned by its country members, PAHO/WHO takes measures to ameliorate the impact of the embargo. Such was the case for the special treatment to Cuba in regard to the distribution of influenza A (H1N1) vaccines donated by WHO to the 10 most needy countries of the Americas region, in order to counteract the dissemination of the pandemic. Cuba was the first country to receive enough vaccines to immunize 10 per cent of its population.

The PAHO/WHO technical cooperation programme has been affected in terms of the acquisition of equipment and material for the country office. The United States embargo on Cuba continues to impact the acquisition of computers for the PAHO/WHO office in that country. The need to purchase the computers in Europe increased costs by approximately 50 per cent. The PAHO/WHO country office in Cuba also has reduced Internet functionality, as many American websites are

blocking access from Cuba Internet Protocol addresses, in addition to the lack of access to software, such as Acrobat, Java and Google Earth.

The acquisition of a satellite dish needed for official communications within the organization was delayed by six months to substitute components (satellite modem and satellite dish) not requiring clearance from the United States. The substitution of components increased costs by approximately US$ 7,000 of the purchase value. The substitution also impacted the savings the organization could obtain by pooling satellite bandwidth with Haiti, as the satellite technologies used differ to the extent that this is impossible.

Finally, the organization highlights the negative impact that the embargo has on public health, beyond the impact on the persons living in Cuba. By excluding Cuba in global or regional activities and programmes (such as in the case of research, health development or surveillance of antimicrobial resistance), in fact the global progress of knowledge and its application to improve the health of all is affected.

World Intellectual Property Organization

[Original: English]
[25 May 2010]

As a result of the embargo, the following circumstances have been observed in Cuba in detriment to the country's advancement in the field of intellectual property, and directly impact on its technological, social and economic development.

By restricting access of Cuban citizens to the United States, the embargo limits the possibilities of human resources development on United States soil. As a result, specialized Cuban professionals may not fully benefit from higher specialization opportunities in the field of intellectual property, available especially in the United States. These include, notably, the opportunity to get acquainted with successful experiences in the implementation of technology transfer offices, technology management, and intellectual property valuation and collateralization — issues of extreme relevance for the effective use of the intellectual property system.

Visa restrictions also hinder the possibilities of Cuban intellectual property professionals to participate in the regular training programmes, of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), meetings and other events organized in the territory of the United States of America.

Restricted telecommunications infrastructure also hinders the widespread dissemination of WIPO online distance learning courses, despite the efforts and commitment of local authorities to foster a nationwide culture of respect for intellectual property. Videoconference facilities — which allow a most efficient, cost-effective means of communication, especially for educational and training purposes — are also unavailable, since a major portion of the technical equipment and software tools, originating from the United States of America, may not be acquired. Poor telecommunication facilities also have a negative impact on and obstruct the access of Cuban nationals to WIPO online databases and other digital services in the field of intellectual property. This situation, in particular, the online access to patent information databases, including "Patentscope" and others, only available through the Internet, is detrimental to the advancement of technological

research and other innovation programmes carried out by the Government of Cuba in the field of environmental, medical and life sciences, bio and nano-technologies.

The embargo also affects the availability of information technology equipment and software for the performance of administrative operations regarding filing-granting procedures, in particular patent and trademarks search and examination services. Although the country is administratively equipped to perform such functions, thanks to a capillary presence of provincial branches of the Cuban Industrial Property Offices, the lack of specialized software critically hinders such performance. External procurement formalities to obtain the required equipment and software are extremely burdensome. This situation continues to cumulatively delay the services which these offices are required to render and prevents the normal growth and expansion of such services. Most importantly, this situation stifles the possibility to take full advantage of the functionalities available under the WIPO Intellectual Property Automated System (IPAS), since some of the system's operating tools are not freely accessible for users in Cuba. As such, the possibilities of expansion and customization of IPAS to the needs of Cuban users (both in the capital and in the provinces) are seriously compromised.

The extraterritorial effects of the embargo extend to the financial arena as well. Payments from Cuba to WIPO under the WIPO-administered Treaties (PCT, Madrid) may only be effected in euros or Swiss francs — not in United States dollars, in order to avoid the restrictions imposed by the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control. Likewise, payments from WIPO to the Cuban Intellectual Property Office must be made in the same currencies. The cost of these indirect transactions for the purpose of avoiding the United States banks amounts to considerable financial losses, and discourages the use by Cuban nationals of the PCT and Madrid systems.

World Meteorological Organization

[Original: English]
[9 June 2010]

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been providing support to projects, meteorological equipment and instruments, as well as co-sponsoring meteorological conferences.

As a member of WMO, Cuba benefits from the WMO global and regional services, receiving the organization's publications and other materials. Cuba takes part in WMO activities, such as meetings, workshops and courses.

WMO maintains collaborative relations with all Caribbean States, including Cuba which is a member of Regional Association IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean) through the WMO Regional Office for the Americas.

Furthermore, Cuba participates in projects covering the Caribbean area, such as the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Caribbean Project and benefits from them.

World Tourism Organization

[Original: English]
[25 June 2010]

The exclusion of Cuba from the United States tourism-generating market implies, according to the estimates of experts, that approximately 35 million United States citizens could have visited the island since the beginning of the embargo. This would represent a loss in revenue for the Cuban tourism industry of around $23 billion.

The Torricelli Amendment (1992) got Cuba out of the cruise business, which is a growing economic source of revenue for host countries and, more specifically, for those in the Caribbean region.

Online travel sales are difficult because United States credit cards cannot be used and this is also affecting the cost of sales.

Cuban tourism companies have no access to supplies and input for the operations of their tourism industry from United States suppliers, increasing significantly the cost of their imports and, as a consequence, their competitiveness.

No travel agency in the United States is allowed to include in their catalogues Cuba's tourism products and services.

In 2009, United States citizens of Cuban origin started to be allowed travel to Cuba and this has had a positive impact on tourism.

Although these facts are not limited to the time requirements expressed in resolution 64/6, they reflect, in general, the overall effects of the United States embargo on the Cuban tourism industry throughout the years.

World Trade Organization

[Original: English]
[1 June 2010]

Although in the World Trade Organization, members do not address the implementation of United Nations resolutions in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, there are various World Trade Organization forums and mechanisms where the United States, Cuba and other members can address issues relating to their World Trade Organization rights and obligations including, inter alia, obligations with regard to non-discrimination, prohibition of quotas and the possibility of invoking exceptions to these obligations.

As in previous years, in 2009 this issue was raised in a number of instances, including in the Dispute Settlement Body on 19 June, 23 October, 19 November and on 18 February 2010.

Similarly, this matter was referred to in the Committee on Agriculture on 12 March, 2 July, 24 September and 19 November. Finally, the Council for Trade in Goods raised the case twice on 24 March and 12 May.